



## The News October 19th, 5pm© by Noele Bouazouni-Prier

The situation is improving as 21.9% of gas stations are still experiencing difficulties at the national level. A figure once again on the decline. The situation could even improve in the coming days since the strike was lifted in the Donges refinery in Loire Atlantique. On the other hand, the movement is reconducted in the other Total Energie depots, namely in Gonfreville, Flandres, la Mède and Feyzin near Lyon where the government announced a requisition of employees.

After 3 weeks of conflict, the question is how long will the movement last? The CGT indicated this afternoon that it had proposed a crisis resolution protocol to Total Energie. This protocol pertains to the establishment of negotiations on employment and investments - A proposal which was supposedly refused by the management according to the union.

"The 49.3 remains a possibility", says Olivier Véran. The government spokesperson mentioned this afternoon the vote at the assembly of the first part of the budget for 2023, which the government may force through if ever the executive wishes to move quickly to put an end to the rather stormy debates of these past days. In response, the MPs of the Nupes and the Rassemblement National are already threatening to submit a motion of censure.

There is a Bronchiolitis alert in France: Almost all regions have passed the epidemic threshold. As a consequence, hospitalizations have jumped by 42% since the end of September and there is already a risk of saturation in hospitals.

Abroad, Vladimir Putin raises his voice. The Russian President has announced the establishment of martial law in the four Ukrainian territories recently annexed by Moscow (Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson and Zaporizhia). New rules will apply within 3 days as a strengthening of security measures, including the possibility of a curfew and perhaps a ban on public gatherings.