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## The News

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Inflation has slightly slowed down last month in France. It had increased by +5.9% over one year, according to the INSEE. After having exceeded 6% in November, inflation continues to be driven by the rise in energy prices, which have jumped by more than 15% in one year. As for the prices of food products, they have exceeded an increase of 12%.

In this context of rising energy prices, Bruno Le Maire will receive restaurant owners this week, after having received bakers yesterday. The Minister of the Economy has stated that there will not be aid at whatever cost for all professions. The bakers obtained the possibility of terminating their energy contracts, free of charge, in the event of a prohibitive rise in prices.

We now know more about the fuel allowance which replaces the State rebate at the pump. This aid of 100 euros can be requested from January 16 on the website [impots.gouv.fr](http://impots.gouv.fr) and until February 28. Only the 10 million lowest income workers will be able to benefit from it. This aid applies to any type of vehicle, including two-wheelers.

The government is currently participating in the first Council of Ministers of the year and there is no shortage of topics for discussion, with inflation and the pension reform. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne continues today her consultations with the social partners. She will receive the president of the MEDEF Geoffroy Roux de Bézieux, as well as the general secretary of the CGT, Philippe Martinez.

You will no longer be able to buy paracetamol online and that until the end of the month due to supply difficulties – and this is due in particular to the explosion of cases of covid in China. China is the world's largest producer of paracetamol-based drugs and is facing a shortage of staff in its factories.

And to finish: the retirement of the French athlete Mahiedine Mekhissi who ended his career at the age of 37. He had one of the finest records in French athletics, with three Olympic medals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. In an interview with *Le Parisien*, he explained that he has lost his motivation.