



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The pension reform will be presented this morning during the conseil des ministres. The bill sets out to push back the legal retirement age from 62 to 64. As well as sparking anger from unions, the bill is also facing opposition from the public. Last Thursday saw demonstrations that gathered more than a million people across France. The general secretary of the union CGT, Philippe Martinez, has hinted that more action days could take place during the February summer holidays. More demonstrations are already planned for January 31. The government plans for the bill to enter into force this summer.

Bakers will be taking to the streets in protest this afternoon, calling for a tariff shield on rising energy prices to protect their entire profession. The tariff shield scheme currently only covers very small enterprises with fewer than 10 employees that also meet other specific criteria concerning energy use. The demonstration will be taking place in Paris.

France is not ruling out supplying heavy combat tanks to Ukraine. The announcement came from Emmanuel Macron yesterday while he was hosting the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Macron claims the tanks could be delivered to provide real support to the Ukrainian army, provided it did not lead to an escalation in the conflict.

To tennis now and the Australian Open. There are no more French players left in the tournament in Melbourne. The last woman standing, Caroline Garcia lost yesterday in the round of 16 to Poland's Magda Linette. Today, Novak Djokovic plays the Australian Alex de Minaur.

And finally, to the world handball championships and France are showing there is no letting up the pace. Les Bleus may have already secured their place in the quarter finals but there was no slacking in their final match of the round against Spain. France won last night 28-26, their sixth win in as many matches. France now play Germany in the quarter finals.