



## The News

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*by Sarah Heath*

Numbers of protestors out on the streets yesterday varied from the 740,000 reported by the Ministry of the Interior, to more than 2 million according to the CGT. These numbers are down on previous days strike action against pension reform. Fortunately, the day also saw less violence although a few minor clashes broke out once again in several cities between police and demonstrators. Workers' unions are expected at the beginning of next week at Matignon, where Elisabeth Borne will receive them on Monday or Tuesday. This however, has not been enough to discourage them as they are already calling for a new day of demonstrations next week, on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The demonstrations and strike action is beginning to calm down among garbage collectors in Paris. After 23 days of striking, garbage collection will finally resume. The CGT has announced that it is suspending the movement in the capital from today for lack of protestors. There are still nearly 7,000 tons of waste to be collected, which is down on the 10,000 tons at the end of last week.

The National Assembly has adopted the Olympic Games bill including its security section on its first reading. Left-wing parties are criticising the introduction of so-called intelligent video surveillance. This system will make it possible, thanks to an algorithm, to automatically detect potentially risky situations such as abandoned luggage or unusual crowd movements. There are plans for it to be tested in France as soon as this autumn, during the next Rugby World Cup. The national coordinator for the security of the Olympic Games has been suspended. Ziad Khoury is accused of having behaved inappropriately towards a British police officer. It was in November 2021 during a trip to the United Kingdom, linked to preparing for the security of the Olympic Games. An administrative investigation has been opened.

And finally to football, where Hervé Renard is tipped to replace Corine Deacon at the head of the French women's team. He has just left his position as the coach of Saudi Arabia, as formally announced last night by the Saudi federation. His appointment at the head of the French team may be announced on Friday.