



The News

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by Sarah Heath

President Macron wants to lower taxes for the middle classes. The Head of State has set himself the objective of implementing tax reductions equating to €2 billion by 2027, as outlined yesterday during an interview on TF1. Macron did not, however, specify the measures envisaged to make this happen but promised that it will be done as soon as the budgetary trajectory allows it. On another note, he also confirmed that the anti-inflation period may be extended beyond June the 15th.

After weeks of social tension around pension reform, Elisabeth Borne is due to meet with the Intersyndicale at Matignon today and tomorrow. These meetings with the Prime Minister will be in the form of bilateral talks. France's five main unions have accepted the invitation and the Force Ouvrière will be the first up this evening, followed by the CFTD.

A babysitter has been indicted and imprisoned in Bourgoin-Jallieu in the Isère. The 41-year-old man is suspected of having raped a 4-year-old boy in his care and it was the child himself who revealed what had happened to him. The suspect was registered in the file of sex offenders.

In an alarming finding, research shows that the number of birds in Europe has decreased by 25% in almost 40 years due to intensive agriculture. This figure is the result of a study by CNRS and the University of Montpellier. According to researchers, the number of birds has dropped by even more – 57% – in agricultural areas. Apart from intensive agriculture, global warming also plays a major role in negatively affecting bird populations.

It is the kick-off of the 76th edition of the Cannes Film Festival today. Over the coming two weeks, 21 films will compete for the Palme d'Or. The ceremony will begin at 7 o'clock and will open with the screening of the film *Jeanne du Barry*, starring Johnny Depp and directed by Maïwenn. This latest event will take place under close surveillance. Faced with current social tensions and the threat by unions to cut power, the security system has been reinforced and 1,000 police officers and gendarmes will be deployed for the duration of the festival.

And finally to football and the semi-finals of the Champions League tonight with the Milan derby – Inter faces AC Milan at 9 o'clock. In their first encounter, Inter won 2-0.