



The News

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by Sarah Heath

Elisabeth Borne will stay on at Matignon for a while longer, despite the news from the Elysée which confirmed yesterday that a cabinet reshuffle is underway. Keeping the Prime Minister in office provoked criticism from the opposition who slammed her results as head of government. Ms Borne is due to make some adjustments in her ministerial team and President Macron will speak about it publicly this week.

Road homicide will soon become an official crime as confirmed yesterday by Elisabeth Borne during an inter-ministerial committee on road safety. Another measure being put forward is automatically suspending the licence of a driver who is caught at the wheel while under the influence of drugs. These announcements have come under negative scrutiny by road victims' associations who decry no concrete change in the law and driving penalties that remain the same.

To save water, the best thing is to consume less. This is the finding of the Court of Auditors who published a report yesterday devoted to improving water management in the face of global warming. The reduction of levies would be the only long-term solution according to the court, which has tempered hopes placed on expensive technical solutions such as the desalination of seawater or the recycling of waste water.

The South of France is in the grip of yet another heatwave. Last night, 7 départements from Andorra and the Eastern Pyrenees across to Provence and Corsica were placed on an orange alert for high temperatures which may exceed 40 degrees today.

In Greece, a forest fire is raging around Athens. The fire is thought to be of criminal origin and a man suspected of having triggered this disaster has now been arrested. To complicate emergency efforts, flames are being fanned by strong winds and high temperatures. More than 1,200 children staying at a summer camp have been evacuated as a precaution.

And finally, a record 346,000 festival-goers have attended Les Vieilles Charrues over the past five days. This is the highest attendance ever seen according to the organizers of this mythical festival which ended last night in Carhaix in Brittany with a concert by the Red Hot Chili Peppers.