



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Christophe Béchu and Olivier Véran will be in the Pas de Calais today as the flooding continues. The Minister for the Ecological Transition and the government spokesperson will be visiting Arques and Théroutanne, which have been badly hit. The département remains on red alert for flooding, with four other départements on amber alert: the Nord, Aisne, Ardennes and Meuse.

The floods have now claimed a first victim, with a 73-year-old man who was found drowned in the Loire Atlantique. The man had been missing since Tuesday after he set off to refuel his car. The Nantes prosecutor's office says that he then drove into a flooded road. His vehicle was found partly submerged in a ford. The Loire Atlantique was on amber alert for rain and flooding at the start of the week.

Clément Beaune has said that he is not going anywhere. The Minister of Transport gave an interview to newspaper Le Parisien in which he confirms he will not be stepping down even as rumours ramp up of a cabinet reshuffle. Beaune says that while there are still fights to be fought, his temperament is to "get back in the ring".

And finally, a 17 year-old man was arrested in Switzerland yesterday following his escape from Bonneville prison in Haute Savoie on Christmas Eve. He will be tried in Switzerland where he was wanted for several thefts and will have to serve a sentence there before he can be tried in France.