



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Electricity bills are set to rise as of February 1st, as the price shield that was put in place in late 2021 gradually comes to an end. The beginning of next month will see bills increase by between 8.6% and 9.8%. The Minister of the Economy, Bruno Lemaire confirmed the price increase on last night's 8pm news on channel TF1. The next price increase is scheduled for 2025, at which point the price shield will be removed completely.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal is due to meet with the head of the farmers' union FNSEA today. Over the past several days, farmers have dumped manure over the A64 motorway near Toulouse and have blocked traffic with their tractors. They say they have had enough of the government tax on tractor fuel, cheap imports, water storage issues, excessive restrictions and red tape. The Minister of Agriculture, Marc Fesneau has announced he will be postponing his agriculture bill by a few weeks and will be adding a section dedicated to simplifying processes.

Today marks the start of the month in which boats are banned from the Bay of Biscay. 450 French fishing boats are affected by the measure which has been in place since the Second World War to protect dolphins. According to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, 9,000 dolphins die each year because of fishing. The fishing industry says that the compensation offered to make up for lost earnings during this month is not enough.

Searches continued through the night last night for a missing hiker in the Alpes Maritimes. The 50-year-old woman went for a walk by herself yesterday afternoon in the Isola 2000 station and has not been heard from since.

And finally to football, and the Coupe de France round of 16. Rennes won on a penalty shootout against Marseille, Lille and Strasbourg are also through to the next round while defending champions Toulouse were knocked out by Rouen.