



## The News January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8am © by Emma Phillips

Farming unions have warned that they will not be satisfied with token measures, as they pledge to continue their road blockades while waiting for the government to put forward concrete proposals. French farmers have been protesting over the taxes, competition from cheap imports and red tape that they face, among other issues. Farming representatives met with the Prime Minister in his offices at Matignon yesterday. Gabriel Attal said that reestablishing trust had to translate into action and will be going to see farmers at their protests in the next few days. The Minister of Agriculture, Marc Fesneau promised to offer solutions over the next few days.

Electricity use was down by 7%-8% during November and December of 2023 compared to same period from 2014 to 2019, as French consumers try to contend with rising bills. Energy prices are set to rise again by 10% on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The President of the French Football Association has denounced the racist insults which the French goalkeeper was subjected to in Italy over the weekend. Philippe Diallo has said the abuse that Mike Maignan suffered was "unacceptable". The investigation into the racist abuse continues. One perpetrator was identified and banned from the stadium for life.

And finally, to rugby and former England captain Owen Farrell has just signed a two-year contract with Racing 92. Farrell, who is 32, will be joining the Ile-de-France club in the summer.