



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Announcements about agriculture are due today with the Prime Minister expected in Haute Garonne this afternoon to talk to farmers. The government response to the demands submitted by farmers, including immediate access to aid and the relaxing of environmental standards, is hoped to bring the ongoing protests to an end. The farmer protests and roadblocks are due to reach the Paris region today. Yesterday in Bordeaux, farmers set alight straw and pallets in front of the prefecture and in Agen, slurry was thrown at a shopping centre.

Despite some of the extreme measures that farmers have taken over the past week, there is yet to be a police response. The Minister of the Interior Gérald Darmanin, defended the lack of action while making an appearance on last night's 8pm news on channel TF1. He said "We do not respond to suffering by sending in the riot police, the CRS".

And talking of the Ministry of the Interior, large sections of the new immigration law have been revoked by the constitutional council – 35 articles out of a total of 86. The new bill was painstakingly adopted by parliament last month. Measures such as annual migration quotas and the tightening of access to social benefits for foreigners caused huge controversy and were the result of pressure from the right wing. These measures have now been removed. The news comes as several hundred people protested the immigration law in Rennes last night, with some windows broken and bins set on fire.

And finally to handball and it's France vs Sweden today in the semi-finals of the European Championships. France take on the defending champions at 5.45pm, with the second semi-final match between Germany and Denmark following later this evening.