



The News

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by Emma Phillips

France's farmers are gradually starting to clear the road blockades that were set up across the country's motorways following the announcements from the government yesterday afternoon. Different farming unions have different takes on what should happen now. The head of the FNSEA says the movement will not stop, it is just transformed, while the Confédération Paysanne calls for continued protest.

Emmanuel Macron spoke about the farming crisis in France at the European Council meeting in Brussels yesterday. The President reiterated France's opposition to the free trade treaty between the EU and the Mercosur trading bloc of countries in South America, an agreement he claims would penalise European farmers.

Meanwhile, teachers are demanding better pay and working conditions and the resignation of the Minister of Education, Amélie Oudéa Castera. Teaching unions are claiming that 47% of teachers did not teach in middle and high schools yesterday, a figure that the ministry says is closer to 20%. Thousands of teachers joined demonstrations across the country yesterday.

France's train network, the SNCF has been convicted of manslaughter. Yesterday, the SNCF was convicted and found responsible for the death of a railway worker hit by a train in Nancy in 2016. The SNCF will have to pay a fine of €225,000.

And finally to rugby, less than four months after France played their last match which saw them out of the World Cup quarter finals, France will be back this evening with the start of the 6 Nations Tournament. France are without former captain Antoine Dupont and will play at home to Ireland in Marseille. That match gets underway at 9 p.m.