



The News

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by Emma Phillips

As yesterday was May 1st, between 121,000 and 210,000 people demonstrated in France to mark Labour Day. The number of protestors was down on last year, when attendance surged due to discussions on pension reform. There was some tension in the streets yesterday, in Lyon Toulouse and Nantes and in Paris 45 people were arrested.

Several heads of universities will be talking to each other today in a video-conference organised by the Minister for Higher Education. Several universities have been blockaded in recent days due to student protests at the situation in Palestine. These include higher education establishments in Rennes, Strasbourg and Menton.

Emmanuel Macron will be hosting farmers' unions at the Elysée today in a bid to turn the page on the anger the government has received from the agricultural sector over the past months. The working meeting is following up on the measures announced by the government on Saturday. These measures include a new version of the Ecophyto plan and the acceleration of 100 water storage or irrigation projects starting this year.

And finally, the amber weather alerts have been lifted after violent storms hit the northern part of France last night – particularly in Ile de France where flights to Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports had to be diverted. According to the Keraunos observatory, nearly 23,000 flashes and lightning strikes were detected from Burgundy to Hauts-de-France. The Eiffel Tower was hit by a lightning strike.