



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Eric Ciotti has insisted that he is and that he will remain the head of the Républicains party after barricading himself inside the party headquarters in Paris for several hours yesterday. The bizarre move came after Eric Ciotti was ousted as party head after Républicains executives convened to address the proposal he had put forward of an alliance with far-right party, the Rassemblement National. Mr Ciotti said the commission had “no legal existence”.

Meanwhile, Marion Maréchal has been booted from the Reconquête party by Eric Zemmour after he accused her of “betrayal” for supporting a potential alliance with the right wing and the Rassemblement National in the upcoming elections.

On the left, the head of the party la France Insoumise, Jean-Luc Mélenchon said on TV channel France 2 yesterday that he was “capable” of taking on the role of prime minister, and that he wasn’t ruling himself out or imposing himself either. The new grassroots front, the Nouveau Front Populaire has decided that Melenchon’s party will put forward the most candidates across the 577 constituencies.

The verdict in the appeal trial of the Nice attack is expected this evening as jurors at the Paris Special Assize Court will retire after yesterday’s hearings. 20-year prison sentences have been recommended for two men accused of terrorist criminal conspiracy.

And finally, the world’s seven largest economic powers will be meeting in Italy today as the G7 gets underway. The main topics will be Ukraine and Gaza.