



The News

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by Emma Phillips

After several weeks of uncertainty, today at midday Emmanuel Macron named Michel Barnier as the country's new prime minister. And the mission handed down from the president is clear, Mr Barnier has to form a government that will come together to serve the country and the French people. This evening, former prime minister Gabriel Attal formally made the handover of power to Michel Barnier at the prime minister's offices at Matignon. The event saw the youngest prime minister the country has ever seen hand power to the oldest, as Michel Barnier is 73. In a video posted to X, Gabriel Attal thanked the French people and said that being the prime minister had been the "honour of his life".

In the meantime, the reactions to Michel Barnier's appointment have been rolling in, particularly from leftwing alliance, the Nouveau Front Populaire. The head of representatives to the Assemblée Nationale of leftwing party La France Insoumise, Mathilde Panot, has accused Emmanuel Macron of failing to respect "grassroots sovereignty" and the "choice that was made at the ballot boxes". The NFP alliance has already confirmed it will vote to censure the new government.

On the extreme right, the representatives from the Rassemblement Nationale seem willing to give Michel Barnier a chance. Jordan Bardella says he will reserve judgement until the prime minister's general policy becomes clear, while Marine Le Pen says she wants to remember and respect the 11 million French people who voted for the party.

To the Paralympics now, and France has been winning medal after medal in the para-cycling events. Loïc Vergnaud took silver this afternoon in the road race, his fifth medal of these Games and the 20th medal for France in para-cycling.

And finally, Laurent Tirard, the director of films such as *Astérix et Obélix: au service de sa majesté* and *Des vacances du Petit Nicolas* has died after a long illness at the age of 57.