



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Michel Barnier has pledged to address current “challenges” and to “take action more than talk”. Speaking in his first hours on the job after being appointed yesterday, the new prime minister promised that the country’s schools would remain the “government’s priority” as well as “access to public services” and “controlling immigration”. The formal handover of power took place yesterday early evening with Gabriel Attal at the prime minister’s offices at Matignon.

The appointment of the new, right-wing prime minister has not gone down well with the left. Secretary general of the union CGT, Sophie Binet, said that Emmanuel Macron’s choice shows “contempt for the votes made by the actual voters”. Left-wing party La France Insoumise is organising more than 120 demonstrations that will take place across the country tomorrow. And all parties in the left-wing alliance the Nouveau Front Populaire have issued a joint statement pledging to vote to censure the government under Barnier.

Michel Barnier will be meeting with various figures today in order to discuss forming that very government. The prime minister has meetings scheduled with representatives from right wing party Les Républicains, Gérard Larcher and Laurent Wauquiez and with former prime minister Gabriel Attal and François Bayrou.

To the Paralympic Games now and yesterday saw another crop of medals for team France, with a tally of eleven medals in one day. These include two gold, from Mathieu Bosredon and Florian Jouanny in road cycling. In blind football, the French are through to the final after knocking out Colombia 1 -0.

And finally, charity video game marathon, the ZEvent is happening in Montpellier this weekend with 30 French streamers. Over the next 50 hours, their aim is to raise as much money as possible for charities tackling poverty.