



The News

September 20th, 8am ©

by Emma Phillips

The new government line-up is now due to be announced either today or tomorrow, or in any case, before Sunday. Michel Barnier brought 38 names for potential ministers to Emmanuel Macron yesterday in a meeting between the prime minister and the president at the Elysée. The names include Sébastien Lecornu who would remain at the Ministry of the Armed Forces, Geneviève Darrieussecq at the Ministry of Health, Bruno Retailleau at the Ministry of the Interior and Annie Genevard at the Ministry of Agriculture. Final checks must be carried out by the High Authority for the transparency of public life before the government can be announced.

One name that will not be appearing in the final line-up is Laurent Wauquiez, who refused to be part of the new government. The chair of the Republican Right group was offered the position at the Ministry of the Economy, although the position he had wanted was at the Ministry of the Interior.

The leader of Hezbollah has pledged that Israel will receive a “terrible punishment”, following the deadly explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies that left 37 dead and thousands injured in Lebanon this week. Meanwhile, Israel has confirmed carrying out 30 more strikes against Hezbollah. In a video published last night, President Emmanuel Macron promises the Lebanese people that a “a path of diplomacy exists”.

And finally, the pangolin has been officially cleared of starting the Covid pandemic among humans. A new international scientific investigation has concluded that the pangolin was not the cause and that the spread to humans was likely due to another animal who infected humans at the market in Wuhan, China. Scientists are now turning their attention to the raccoon dog and the civet. The study also highlights the high risk of further pandemics breaking out tied to the sale of live animals in densely populated cities.