



The News

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by Emma Phillips

This afternoon saw Michel Barnier deliver his speech on general policy. The much-anticipated speech from the prime minister to parliament representatives set out the priorities for his new government. A taste of what may lie ahead includes tax hikes for big business and the wealthy as well as a 2% increase in the minimum wage as of November 1st. Discussions on the law regarding the end-of-life will resume in early 2025.

Reactions to today's speech are in from across the political spectrum. Former prime minister and current head of the Renaissance party in parliament, Gabriel Attal recognised the need to reduce public spending but urged Michel Barnier to not raise taxes. Meanwhile, Marine Le Pen has threatened Michel Barnier with a no-confidence vote if he does not hurry with a new law on immigration.

Emmanuel Macron will be chairing a conseil de défense this evening to address the situation in Lebanon. The death toll has risen to a thousand as Israel continues its strikes over positions held by Hezbollah and now includes at least two French nationals. 23,000 French nationals or dual nationals are currently in Lebanon and could be repatriated.

And finally to tennis and Arthur Fils has won the ATP 500 tournament in Tokyo in an all-French final against Ugo Humbert in three sets, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3.