



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

What will no doubt prove to be a make-or-break week for the government under Michel Barnier is getting underway. Today may see the prime minister resort to using article 49-3 of the constitution for the first time in order to push through the 2025 budget without a final vote. The budget is due to be put to the vote this afternoon in the Assemblée Nationale. The leftwing alliance, the Nouveau Front Populaire has been waiting in the wings and ready to pounce with a vote of no confidence. If the NFP can get the support of the right-wing Rassemblement National for that vote, then Michel Barnier might be in real danger.

Two people were killed and seven others were seriously injured last night in a bus accident in the Pyrénées Orientales. The bus was making its return journey back to Spain with 50 people onboard when it ran into a cliff face. Among those taken to hospital was a four-year-old-child. More than 120 firefighters attended the incident last night.

The Paris Préfecture of Police has unveiled the security plan for when Notre-Dame cathedral reopens. The plan to counter any terrorist threats has taken a lot of inspiration from the measures used during this summer's Olympic Games and will see thousands of police deployed in a protective perimeter around the cathedral, with traffic disruptions to be expected. Notre-Dame will welcome the public again later this month after a major fire five years ago meant the cathedral had to remain closed.

And finally, the UN has issued a stark warning that the planet is on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster as the COP 16 to combat desertification gets underway in Saudi Arabia. The conference is described as a moonshot moment to raise global ambition and accelerate action on land and drought resilience. The latest report from the UN states that intensive agriculture is linked to 1/4 of greenhouse gas emissions, 80% of deforestation and 70% of freshwater use. UN secretary general Antonio Guterres commented that "we treat the planet like dirt".