



The News

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by Emma Phillips

France needs a new prime minister. Michel Barnier was at the Elysée this morning to hand in his resignation. The government under Barnier was ousted from power last night after the motion of no confidence was passed in the Assemblée Nationale. This is only the second time that a government has been toppled via a no confidence motion since 1958 and Michel Barnier now holds the dubious honour of being the shortest serving prime minister of France's Fifth Republic, with a term of just 90 days.

It was the 2025 budget put together under Barnier that proved the sticking point for both extreme right- and left-wing representatives in the Assemblée Nationale. That budget has now stalled, with head of the Assemblée Nationale Yael Braun Pivet now urging Emmanuel Macron to move quickly to replace Barnier in order for budget discussions to get underway again.

With the lower house practically split into three equal blocks of political opinion since July's snap election, Emmanuel Macron now has to contend with the headache of appointing a new prime minister who can appoint a government that will actually get the chance to govern. The president took nearly two months to appoint Barnier after the election in July. Macron had lunch at the Elysée with François Bayrou today, although other names are also doing the rounds including François Baroin, Sébastien Lecornu and Bruno Retailleau. Emmanuel Macron will be making a televised address to the nation this evening at 8pm.

In the midst of the political turmoil now facing the country, the first secretary of the Parti Socialist has written to the president, urging him to seek a range of opinions on the way out of the current crisis. Olivier Faure has requested that Emmanuel Macron meet with the heads of all parliamentary groups.

Nearly a third of the country's teachers are on strike today as part of public sector industrial action in protest at the 2025 budget. Hospital and airport staff are also striking. A crowd has gathered outside the Ministry of the Economy in Paris. Secretary general of the union CGT, Sophie Binet spoke at the protest, calling on the government to raise wages and pensions.

And finally, the Women's European Handball Championships continue today, with Les Bleues playing Romania late this afternoon. France's first match of the main round will start at 6pm.

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