



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron met with three political groups at the Elysée this morning, following Michel Barnier's resignation as prime minister after the Assemblée Nationale passed the motion of no confidence last week. The left-wing party France Insoumise refused to attend the meeting and the right-wing Rassemblement National was not invited. The Ecologistes say that the president is looking for new ways out of the current crisis by meeting with different groups.

Pierre Palmade has been taken to prison in Bordeaux and placed in solitary confinement. The comedian was sentenced to five years, with two of those years custodial. He was found guilty of involuntary injury for causing a road accident while under the influence of drugs.

Bashar al-Assad has fled to Russia, after his regime fell and he was ousted from power by Syrian rebels who have taken power in Damascus. The United Nations Security Council will be holding an emergency meeting this evening. Four European countries, including Germany, have announced that they are "suspending asylum applications from Syrian refugees". France is making its own decision on the matter.

Jacques Audiard's latest film looks set to win big at the Golden Globes. Emilia Perez is the film that has received the most nominations, with the musical appearing in 10 categories. The awards ceremony will be held in Los Angeles on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

And finally, a word on the Vendée Globe, Charlie Dalin is still leading the race, ahead of Sébastien Simon and Yoan Richomme, although the gap between the skippers is closing one month after the boats set sail.