



The News

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by Emma Phillips

François Bayrou will be taking questions from elected officials at the Assemblée Nationale this afternoon, as it has been confirmed that he will make an official address the lower house on January 14th. The prime minister now has just under a month to decide on his statement of general policy that he will set out to the lower house in the new year. And before then, François Bayrou still needs to form the new government. He has been having meetings with Emmanuel Macron and the different political groups that form the Assemblée Nationale. Today, it is expected that the prime minister will have to answer questions on the conseil municipal that took place in Pau yesterday while a crisis meeting on Mayotte was held in Paris.

The first medical evacuations from Mayotte to hospitals on the Ile de la Réunion took place yesterday as the island waits for supplies from the air. Mayotte was devastated by cyclone Chido over the weekend and now military aircraft have been deployed to bring in food and water from Réunion. A field hospital with 90 staff will be set up on site on Thursday as Mayotte's only hospital sustained serious damage in the cyclone.

Whaling activist Paul Watson will be going home for Christmas after Denmark refused his extradition to Japan. Mr Watson was arrested on a Japanese warrant earlier this year further to an encounter with a Japanese whaling research ship in 2010. He was accused of obstructing the crew's official duties by ordering the captain of his ship to throw explosives at the whaling ship. The 74-year-old has been held in prison in Greenland since his arrest. He is returning to his family in France and he applied for French nationality in October.

And finally, as we enter the final stretch before Christmas, today two million three hundred of the country's most modest households will be getting a helping hand for the holidays. The Christmas bonus for recipients of the RSA minimum income and other social benefits is paid out today, with sums ranging from 150 to 450 euros.