



## The News

**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 3pm ©**

*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron is preparing to address the nation this evening after an eventful 2024 with his new year best wishes to the French people. The president will be speaking from the Elysée palace at 8pm. His speech is likely to cover highs such as the success of the Paris Olympics as well as more tricky subjects such as the political crisis and ongoing conflicts around the world. Those close to him say that the president will be taking the position of “guarantor rather than governor”. Last year, around 10 million people tuned in for the president’s speech.

Another topic that the president is going to have to address this evening is the devastation wrought by cyclone Chido in Mayotte. Meanwhile, the prime minister left Mayotte earlier this afternoon after spending two days on the islands and in Réunion. Yesterday, the prime minister presented his plan for emergency measures to address the situation as well as longer-term commitments. An emergency law will be presented on Friday at the first conseil des ministres of 2025, which will also be the first of the government under Bayrou.

As the new year festivities get underway, a total of 90,000 police will be deployed throughout the country this evening in order to carry out traffic checks as well as to prevent violence in town centres. 10,000 of those will be in Paris, which according to Police Prefect Laurent Nuñez, is the same number as last year.

France has carried out strikes against Daech positions in Syria. The announcement comes from the minister of the armed Forces, Sébastien Lecornu, who arrived in Lebanon yesterday to spend New Year's Eve with French service members deployed to UNIFIL.

And finally, a poll of French people carried out by the Odoxa institute has found that Gisèle Pelicot is considered the person of year for 2024. Ms Pélicot, who waived her right to anonymity when it was revealed that her husband had organised for her to be raped while unconscious by scores of men, said earlier this year that for rape victims, shame had to “switch sides”. She came ahead of Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky in the poll carried out for Public Sénat and the regional press.