



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The UK has said that it is ready to send troops to Ukraine to back up any peace deal. European leaders gathered at the emergency summit organised by Emmanuel Macron today, as Germany and Spain took a more cautious approach. Germany said it would not “shy away” from contributing troops but that no concrete decisions would be made in Paris, while Spain said it was too early to make any offer. Meanwhile, representatives from Moscow and Washington will be meeting tomorrow in Saudi Arabia.

Pope Francis remains in hospital this evening with a respiratory infection. The Vatican says that the clinical picture is “complex”, as the fourth hospitalisation in four years has raised concerns for the fragile health of the 88-year-old Pope.

Five men have gone on trial today accused of holding four French journalists hostage in Syria for the Islamic State jihadist group more than a decade ago. Among them is Mehdi Nemmouche, who told the hearing before the Cour d'Assises Spéciale in Paris today that he had not been the jailer of the journalists. Nemmouche is already serving a life sentence for killing four people at the Brussels Jewish Museum in May 2014.

Sixty potential measures to combat drug trafficking have been listed in a report put forward today by parliament members Antoine Léaument and Ludovic Mendes and these include legalising cannabis. The minister of justice Gerald Darmanin has reacted strongly to the proposition, stating that drugs were harmful to health and to society.

And finally, six environmental activists remain perched in the trees outside the administrative court in Toulouse as tomorrow, the courts will examine the appeals on the merits lodged by opponents of the A69 motorway between Toulouse and Castres.