



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Emmanuel Macron is due to address the nation this evening to soothe public concerns over Ukraine and the upending of the international order by the US administration. One of the president's aides said that "a lot of anxiety" had been felt among people in France, as the number of letters to the Elysée concerning the war in Ukraine has increased fifteenfold in recent weeks. The president's speech will be broadcast on channels TF1 and 2, ahead of an EU summit tomorrow where leaders will discuss the proposal to borrow up to 150 billion euros as part of a rearmament plan of member states.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and Germany have agreed that the US president has a leadership role to play in achieving a ceasefire and lasting peace in Ukraine. With US aid to Ukraine now suspended, German chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke on the phone today. The German chancellor reaffirmed Germany's ongoing support and unwavering solidarity with Ukraine. Cooperation between the US and Ukraine may resume as Zelenskyy has now outlined the contours of a peace plan in partnership with the United States.

The police union Alliance has called on all officers to demonstrate outside of all of the country's police services tomorrow at midday. The protests are against the recommendation from the public prosecutor of Nanterre that the officer who killed 16-year-old Nahel Merzouk in 2023 should stand trial for murder. The union called the prosecutor's decision "unacceptable".

And finally, the social affairs committee from the Assemblée Nationale spent the day looking over a bill that would help bistros make a comeback in France's smallest towns. The bill would help bistros open to rejuvenate towns with fewer than 3,500 inhabitants. In 1960, France boasted some 200,000 cafés and bistros, a number that had shrank to 39,000 in 2023.