



The News

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by Emma Phillips

François Bayrou has once again confirmed that returning to a retirement age of 62 will “not be possible”. The prime minister was taking questions in the Assemblée Nationale today as the news came that the employers’ group for local businesses, the U2P, would not be returning to the pension conclave this Thursday. The special consultation between employers and unions had already been marred with the union FO leaving negotiations during the very first meeting. Today, François Bayrou urged the negotiations between social partners to continue on pension reform.

Emmanuel Macron has pledged that France will continue to support Ukraine in the face of the “war of aggression”. The president was speaking from an airbase in the Haute-Saône earlier and confirmed that investment was on the way for two Rafale fighter aircraft squadrons that will replace Mirage jets within the next three years. US president Donald Trump spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin today to address the “normalisation” of ties between the US and Russia and Russia accepting a ceasefire in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Paris has condemned the latest Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip as having caused “numerous civilian casualties” and is calling for an “immediate cessation of hostilities”. Officials say that more than 400 people were killed in the early morning airstrikes.

And finally, astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams will finally be touching down off the coast of Florida at about 11pm Paris time after an unexpected 9 month stay in the International Space Station. The pair left the ISS this morning aboard a spacecraft provided by SpaceX. Their original mission was only meant to last eight days.