



The News

April 16th, 5pm ©

by Emma Phillips

The government spokesperson today branded attacks against prisons “intolerable” further to a spate of incidents this week at facilities in different areas of the country. The list was added to last night with attacks on prisons in the Bouches-du-Rhône and Seine-et-Marne. Sophie Primas was speaking after a meeting of the conseil des ministres. As has been the case with all other prison attacks this week, the investigation into these latest two will be handled by the national anti-terrorist prosecutor's office. Measures to better protect prison officers are currently under discussion.

The minister of public accounts is looking to close 467 tax loopholes in order to make massive savings to address France’s debt. Amélie de Montchalin has specified that even 10% fewer loopholes would bring in eight billion euros. The government is also seeking to clamp down on fraud in order to recover 15 billion euros.

The search for missing woman Agathe Hilairt has continued today, with some hundred gendarmes still deployed on the ground. 28-year-old Agathe went for a run last Thursday in the Vienne region and there has been no trace of her since.

Six deaths in Réunion have been confirmed as related to chikungunya since the start of the year, according to Santé Publique France today. All of the victims were over 70 years old and suffering from co-morbidities. Nearly 5,000 cases of chikungunya were confirmed on the island during the week of March 31st to April 6th.

And finally, wine consumption worldwide fell again last year to its lowest level since 1961. The news comes today from the International Organisation of Vine and Wine. The OIV confirmed that worldwide consumption fell to 214 million hectolitres last year, which was a drop (of wine) of 3.3% in 2024.