



The News

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by Emma Phillips

'The government will make proposals, we will debate them and you will vote'. This was the message repeated today by the Prime Minister in his general policy speech to the Assemblée Nationale. Sébastien Lecornu also announced this afternoon that discussions on pension reform would be suspended until the presidential election. The Parti Socialiste had threatened to issue a vote of no confidence if this demand was not met.

In his general policy speech, the Prime Minister assured that he would not resort to using article 49-3 of the constitution in order to pass proposals without them being put to vote in the lower house. The half hour speech also included the promise of a bill to strengthen local powers and a bill on New Caledonia before the end of the year. As for the 2026 budget, the national deficit will be reduced to 4.7% of the GDP. Sébastien Lecornu also alluded to an 'an exceptional contribution' from the wealthiest people in France.

A major fire has broken out in the Rhône region and plumes of smoke have been visible for miles around Villefranche-sur-Saône since this morning. More than a hundred firefighters have been mobilised to tackle the blaze at a plastics manufacturing company, and nearly 800 people have been evacuated.

And finally, one of the most famous self-portraits in the world is now on display in France. Gustave Courbet's painting 'Le Désespéré' will be exhibited from today onwards at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, on a five-year loan from Qatar Museums.