



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

'We are not involved in an ongoing conflict, but we are operating within this context'. These were the words of Emmanuel Macron today, speaking from the Charles-de-Gaulle aircraft carrier, currently deployed in the Mediterranean. The President stated that an intergovernmental mission involving several countries is being prepared in order to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to gas and oil transport.

Oil prices are reaching exceptionally high levels as the week gets underway. At the pump, diesel has risen by 25 centimes in a week in France, reaching €2 per litre, the like of which has not been seen since the start of the war in Ukraine. Unleaded 95 costs an average of €1.88. Croatia and Hungary have announced that they will be capping fuel prices.

Ali Khamenei is 'a tyrant who will perpetuate the regime's brutality'. This is Israel's reaction to the appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei, Ali Khamenei's son, as Iran's new supreme leader. Donald Trump says that he is 'unhappy' with the choice, as the US President gears up to give his first press conference this evening since the start of the war.

The owners of Le Constellation bar in Crans Montana are suspected of being linked to major financial fraud. The Swiss anti-money laundering office has been looking into the French couple's bank accounts following the blaze on New Year's Eve. A report published by Le Parisien points to possible money laundering, insurance fraud and other activities that appear to be a Ponzi scheme. The couple could have ties to organised crime in Corsica.

And finally, the Russian national anthem was played today in Milan Cortina as Varvara Voronchikhina took victory in the standing super-G. The anthem had not been heard as part of an Olympic Games ceremony since 2014, along with Russian athletes competing under their national flag. France's Aurélie Richard came second in the Super-G event, winning France's first medal.