

Beat: Politics

## **FRANCE HAS FINALLY A NEW PRIME MINISTER, MICHEL BARNIER TAKING OVER G. ATTAL**

### **AFTER MACRON'S WEEKS OF HESITATION**

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**USPA NEWS** - Today is a great day for France, which was counting the days (52) since it has been operating with a resigning government that only manages "current affairs" to the point of annoying journalists but also the French. Today, a new Prime Minister has finally been appointed by French President Macron, his name is Michel Barnier, a great servant of the State, Gaullist and therefore from the right.

The ceremony of transfer of power from Gabriel Attal, the youngest of the 5th Republic, at 34 years old to Michel Barnier, 73 years old, today September 5, 2024 began with a speech by the resigning PM that lasted more than fifteen minutes.

This appointment comes after weeks of negotiations and consultations of political figures with President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace.

The latter had called for a political truce during the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, i.e. from July 26 to September 7, 2024, to choose his new PM, after the legislative elections of July 9.

### **PRESIDENT MACRON FINALLY APPOINTED MICHEL BARNIER AS NEW PRIME MINISTER AFTER WEEKS OF HESITATIONS**

Many names had then circulated, among former members of the pre-Macron regime, such as the socialist Bernard Caseneuve (Ex Interior Minister, 2014-2016 under the mandate of President Francois Hollande), Thierry Beaudet (President of the Economic and Social Council) the Republican, right-wing Xavier Bertrand, (Ex Minister of Health, 2015-2012 under Nicolas Sarkozy). However, the left-wing party NFP (New Popular Front) having come out on top in the results of the legislative elections, and representing a bloc of parties (LFI, Far Left (72 MPs), Communists (17), Ecologists (38 MPs), Socialist (66 MPs)) with a total of 193 deputies.

The Presidential Renaissance party, having obtained only 99 MPs, Les Republicans, had obtained only 47 seats. The only party that won the majority of seats without allying itself is Marine Le Pen's National Rally, with 126 seats. By allying itself with the Republican. Eric Ciotti the extreme right reached 142 MPs. Among the eleven parliamentary groups of the National Assembly, it is Marine Le Pen's party that holds the maximum number of deputies without allying itself with other groups. Although none of the parties won the legislative elections, all far from the abolished majority of 289 seats,

Marine Le Pen is the only one who can threaten censure on her own as leader of her party assuming that the equivalent of deputies vote the same motion of censure.

of seats in parliament, had and (continue to demand) the nomination of Lucie Castets (Socialist, compatible with the Paris City Hall). Which candidate was refuted by the President Emmanuel Macron, who preferred to appoint Michel Barnier, Republican, a great public figure, with a rich and experienced background of fifty years of political experience (several times ministers, including agriculture, then commissioner of the European Union).

Michel Barnier has had a long career in French European politics, and as chief Brexit negotiator for the European Union, he played a major role in the signing of the agreements governing the departure of the United Kingdom and the new relationship between Europeans and the British. He was recognized for a grueling work of compromise, lasting several years, started after the British vote in favor of "Leave" on June 23, 2016, and continued until the signing of a trade and cooperation agreement with London on December 24, 2020.

Before this nomination, which comes almost fifty-two days after the resigning (accepted by the President of the Republic Emmanuel Macron) on 17 July, by Gabriel Attal (now the leader of the Renaissance party group in the National Assembly, i.e. 99 seats), the opposition parties from the far left to the far right have begun to censure the government in the event of such a nomination.

All this has tired public opinion and the French caught up in the high cost of living and the accumulation of recent crimes (Death of

gendarme Cormy mowed down by a migrant following a refusal to comply, on August 26 in Mougins)

Michel Barnier is a member of the Republicans (LR) party, former MP of Savoie region from 1978 to 1993, he alternated between the mandates of minister and European commissioner. Once the Brexit procedure was underway, he became chief negotiator responsible for preparing and conducting negotiations with the United Kingdom in 2019 and 2021. In September 2024, he was appointed Prime Minister by the President of the Republic Emmanuel Macron.

Michel Barnier, shows his impatience by showing humor, without reading his speech and notes, in a subtle way, facing Gabriel Attal: "Can I say a few words?" Laughter in the courtyard of the Hôtel de Matignon, while Gabriel Attal nods, surprised by the annoyed tone of Michel Barnier, reproaching him for the longevity of his departure speech. He continues always with irony.

"I really liked the way you gave me, not lessons... well, teachings - even if it only lasted eight months - that you learn when you are prime minister." "I found my office a little empty earlier," he said, once again to laughter from the audience, before asserting his authority: "Of course, I will take them up again (...) You will allow me, perhaps, to add my own added value." Michel Barnier then got to the heart of his speech, after giving a little lesson on the advantage of "white hair" over the young "Benjamin of politics" that he called Gabriel Attal, recalling that he was also a benjamin (he was the youngest deputy in the National Assembly fifty years ago) Michel Barnier promised to start a new page with "changes and ruptures"

#### GABRIEL ATTAL EXPRESSES FRUSTRATION AT LEAVING POST AS PRIME MINISTER AFTER ONLY 8 MONTHS

Gabriel Attal, the young PM who resigned, took advantage of this media window, while confiding his "frustration" at seeing his term as Prime Minister interrupted while he had started several bills and the beginning of reforms, which "wait" for the next Prime Minister "on his desk" at the Hotel Matignon to end. "Eight months is short. It's too short," he shared.

He repeats several times how the role of Prime Minister involves being alone and his "visceral love for the French". Very nostalgic he recalls "I take with me your life, your crack, your sense of duty and I want to tell the French how much I love them, viscerally" says Gabriel Attal, as he soon leaves the Hotel Matignon, his heart thorn.

Gabriel Attal, ends his long speech by thanking the parliamentarians, his family, and his staff "I want to thank the parliamentarians of the majority for their work and the candidates for the former majority"

"Finally I thank my family ... with roots and challenges and new functions of what our parents transmitted to us ... moved he explains "My dad is gone is not here today but what he left me is righteousness a great inspiring value at Matignon" He continues on his mother present at the ceremony "When I was little she told me everything suits me, on what we wanted to become, on condition that you are free" as he continues

Gabriel Attal insisted on the greatness of France in a very patriotic tone and with exaggerated pride "France is beautiful, great, it is not just any country" he added "To be French is to never give up the desire for unity"

After a long speech delivered by the outgoing Prime Minister, Gabriel Attal, the freshly appointed level, Prime Minister Michel Barnier, his aide of almost forty years older, took the floor while launching a small punchline "Can I say a few words speak now?" he insisting on the lengthy speech of his predecessor Gabriel Attal.

Michel Barnier is very enthusiastic and positive, looking towards a future that he wants to be reassuring and placing France among the

great nations "It will take perseverance for certain actions in the impetus of the President of the Republic with an attractiveness of France and also for the importance of its interests in Europe" He adds in a burst of courage to instill and inciting a gathering of the oppositions "It will be necessary to include all the political forces and I will call them this evening.

Michel Barnier announces his first gestures towards the deputies, to attempt a cohesion and political unity "From this evening and towards parliamentarians, social and economic partners and local elected officials, making this economic fabric and doing me honor. I do not forget my actions on the ground in which we will act to prove everywhere the solutions that work and the government will not wait for the feeling that they know it all.

**MICHEL BARNIER CONFESSES THAT "IDEAS OFTEN COME FROM THE MOST MODEST, AS LONG AS YOU LISTEN TO THEM"**

Michel Barnier shows humility and humanism by citing modest people "the people from below" and after mentioning disabled people suffering from mental health (Cause defended by his wife with his foundation)

"I learned that often the rough come from elsewhere and from the most modest if we take the time to listen to them and common sense by people from below that we must respect" continuing very pragmatically "with all those who are of good will to find solutions" he adds "

"It is a question of common sense. And of general interest of common good of our country"

Michel Barnier insisted on the importance of volunteering and took the opportunity to congratulate the "40,000 volunteers who made the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games which made France shine"

The new Prime Minister did not forget to address the French overseas and the French living abroad.

He also quotes his mother "A left-wing Christian" who instilled in him the motion to avoid sectarianism

The new Prime Minister Barbier wants to be reassuring and unifying:

"Turn this new page with all those who want it "I think of the French from mainland France and overseas and those living abroad who, whatever their vote and sensitivity today and express a need for respect Unity, appeasement"

He also insisted on the importance of "telling the truth to the French" and promising "I will tell the truth, even if this green is hard to hear" to the French.../

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