

Beat: Politics

## **PM GABRIEL ATTAL ATTENDED THE DINER MARKING 60th ANNIVERSARY OF IFF INTERNATIONAL FARM FAIR**

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**USPA NEWS** - French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal went to the IAF Salon International de l'Agriculture (International Agriculture Fair) at the Porte de Versailles, this Sunday at 8 p.m., an hour after closing to the public. This trip was not on his official agenda. His visit to the agricultural show was reviewed on Tuesday February 27. However, given the chaotic context of the visit of the President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron the day before, Saturday February 24, the presence of a top official was necessary to attend the dinner marking the 60th anniversary of this international agricultural show.

Indeed, upon his arrival, the day before at Porte de Versailles where the show was held, farmers expressed their anger: "Where is he? we're going to clear him" as a vindictive welcome reserved for the President of the Republic Macron.

In a context of agricultural crisis, the Prime Minister for his part participated in the big funny anniversary dinner marking the symbolic date of the 60th anniversary of this show so popular in France, attracting professionals and the public, made up of families with children. In 2023, the Salon de l'Agriculture had a total of 615,204 visitors, 40,000 professionals and French and international delegations - and 3,500 accredited journalists.

### **PM ATTAL MANAGED THE FARM CRISIS SINCE HE WAS APPOINTED (1,5 MONTH)**

Prime Minister Attal, appointed 1 and a half months ago, had, upon taking office, managed the delicate issue of the anger of the farmers, who had blocked the roads of France with thousands of tractors, twenty (20) blocking points lasting for 10 days (January 24 to February 2).

Among the 120 demands of farmers, (On January 24, 2024, representatives of the FNSEA and Young Farmers (JA) sent the government a list of 120 demands, including around twenty measures considered priorities, Source FNSEA)

Those which emerge from the general perspective, are the precarious living conditions, faced not only with inflation but they also felt a lack of recognition and an injustice in the face of increased and "unfair" competition. Economic difficulties adding to an excess of bureaucracy, often experienced in solitude has led to many of these since drawings (1 Suicide / day in France currently).

The PM therefore had to manage this crisis, and announced urgent measures to calm the anger and distress of farmers on February 2, then new measures on February 21. A lull was obtained in exchange for these promises of measures

1-An agricultural orientation law by this summer. And 400 million euros in aid to farmers, including 150 million euros in fiscal and social support for breeders.

2-Strengthening of Egalim laws "It is a French pride, We cannot accept (...) that an industrialist concludes a price with a distributor before turning to the producer to impose this price", insisted Gabriel Attal .

3-New Controls from DGCCRF (Minister of Economic Finance, Bercy) European purchasing centers singled out

4- Reinforced controls on French origin

Example, according to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Bruno Lemaire "We will be intractable on this subject", warned the Minister of Economy and Finance. While 10,000 checks have already been carried out on 1000 establishments, it appears that 372 of them do not respect the Origine France label or are deceptive. "I will notify the first minutes in the coming days. I just want to remind the various economic players that not respecting Origin France (...) is a deceptive commercial practice which is punishable by a criminal sanction which can reach 10% of the turnover of the companies concerned. , said Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Economy & Finance.

5- Strict application of mirror clauses

We have called on the European Commission to ban all imports of agricultural products containing thiacloprid. I will issue an order on Friday to prohibit its importation into France,” announced Gabriel Attal.

The result was the lifting of blockages on the roads and even in front of the Rungis market (the largest food market in Europe) for a few days, until the opening of the Agricultural Show which was chaotic. , in favor of the visit of Head of State Macron. Despite all these measures, farmers cannot take it anymore and seem to no longer want to trust politicians.

Traveling to Brussels, President Emmanuel Macron then pleaded for the establishment of a European Egalim, during the European summit of February 1-2, to ensure at the European level that there is not not a circumvention of what we did at the French level by the major European purchasing centers”.

PM GABRIEL ATTAL DELIVERED A SHORT SPEECH EXPLAINING THAT “FRENCH AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE NEITHER THE USSR NOR THE FAR WEST”

Gabriel Attal, whose surprise visit to the Salon de l'Agriculture (IAF) was spontaneous, delivered a short keynote after the speech of Mr. Poulain, the general director of the Agriculture Fair, around 8 p.m., after the closing of the show and before dinner 60th anniversary of the Fair. The public having left the show, only the exhibitors and sector managers were present.

He also warned against the “media”, “political” and “militant” circus, referring to the afternoon visit of Jordan Bardella, the young (28 year old) National Rally (RN), who had told him affirmed its desire to promote “economic patriotism” and “change the software” for farmers at the European level, notably with the “exit from free trade agreements”.

PM Attal, for his part, used punchlines and quotes to direct his very oleic speech against the two extreme left (LFI) and right (RN) parties, in this pre-electoral period (European elections next June 6-9)

“OUR ENEMY IS THE LAW OF THE UNBRIDLED MARKET”

“The French are not fooled by anything. Neither manipulation, nor lies, nor window dressing,” declared the Prime Minister this Sunday evening. “Farmers, our animals, our sectors are not a campaign setting” as the Europeans approach, he insisted before defending his record and attacking the RN, party of Marine le Pen and Jordan Bardella.

“We have a clear vision for agriculture: yes to more production and yes to more protection,” he said. “Our enemy is the law of the unbridled market,” he continued before returning to the floor prices for agricultural products announced by the President of the Republic.

PM Gabriel Attal dared a great punchline to make an impression "French agriculture must be neither the USSR nor the Far West", thus responding to the criticisms expressed by certain agricultural professionals to President Emmanuel Macron, struggle to convince them and calm down for two and a half hours the day before.

The PM, Attal, then adds that “Our enemy is not the foreigner, it is the law of the unbridled market”. And “you, who are agricultural professionals, know better than anyone that this agricultural exception should in no case be a closure. Because to give up trade is to condemn our agriculture to collapse,” he said.

“THE POLITICAL PARADE IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS OF JUNE 9, 2024”

PM Gabriel Attal, although on a surprise visit, is only perpetuating the French tradition, for 60 years, of visiting this popular and famous show, where we are a political man. Political men and women come there to see and be seen above all, all while enjoying local frenzy and drinking good wine and specialists from the 13 regions of France. He then explains “The French are not fooled by anything. Neither manipulation, nor lies, nor window dressing,” declared the Prime Minister this Sunday evening. “Farmers, our animals, our sectors are not a campaign setting” as the Europeans approach, he insisted before defending his record and attacking the RN, party of Marine le Pen and Jordan Bardella.

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But farmers are demanding concrete action and can no longer stand verbal promises.

As for Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, he will return to the Salon on Tuesday for a full day of visits and wanderings after other politicians, such as Jordan Bardella Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European...and Marine Le from RN, (Group, in EU,

Manon Aubry of LFI MEP, from the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Raphael Gluksmann MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.

The tow MEP form the left are socialist are totally opposed to the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers (launched in 1962), which seems to represent a real problem common to farmers in France and certain countries of the European Union.../

**Article online:**

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