

Macron U-turn fails to appease protesters

The French government's decision to delay energy tax rises following large-scale rioting in Paris is being seen as "too little, too late" by many protesters who are focusing their anger on President Emmanuel Macron

Leaderless protests have grown via social media and come from across political spectrum. Key complaint has been anger at Macron (inset) and perceived elitism of France's ruling class



■ **Nov 17:** "Yellow vest" protests sparked by planned fuel tax hikes. Movement thus named because protesters wear high-visibility jackets that French law requires all motorists to carry. Over 2,000 protests involving 282,000 people block major roads across France

■ **Nov 24:** 5,000 police deployed in Paris to disperse protesters calling on Macron to resign. Water cannon and tear gas used as activists hurl projectiles, light fires and build barricades around **Champs-Élysées**

■ **Dec 1:** Third weekend of protests sees Paris' worst rioting in decades, with shops and cars set ablaze and **Arc de Triomphe** vandalised. After initially dismissing protesters, Macron says Prime Minister **Édouard Philippe** will meet group



■ **Dec 3:** Discontent spreads to healthcare workers and high schools, with some students protesting about education reforms

■ **Dec 4:** Philippe announces six-month delay in fuel tax increase that would have begun in January, and freeze on energy prices until May

■ **Dec 5:** Protests show no sign of slowing as general discontent over economic inequality continues. **Trade unions and disgruntled farmers pledge to join in, while government mulls changes to wealth tax that critics say benefits France's richest citizens**