



Macroscopic: French politics

Fascination with the disruptive young economy minister shows no sign of fading. Emmanuel Macron will be closely watched when he gives a speech today at the College of Europe in Bruges about the continent's future, and later debates in Brussels. Ten days after he launched a cross-party political movement, En Marche! (On the Move!), a poll suggests that, were he to represent the left at next year's presidential election, and faced Nicolas Sarkozy on the centre-right and Marine Le Pen on the far right, he could win. President François Hollande (if he ran) would not make it to the final run-off. Yet a huge gap lies between such aspirations and hard-nosed political reality. Mr Macron has yet to prove he can get elected, and an ill-advised splash in *Paris-Match*, a celebrity magazine, underlines his political inexperience. Exciting he may be, but much still stands in his way.

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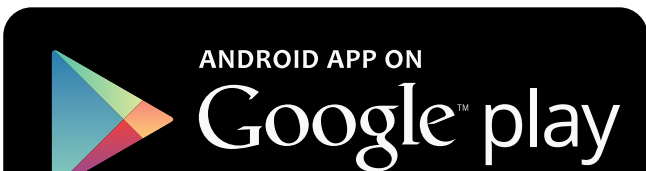
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