

Macron waives presidential pension amid Christmas strike chaos

Emmanuel Macron is to give up his own generous presidential pension in an attempt to calm anger over politicians' **privileges**, as French transport strikes caused chaos for Christmas travellers.

privilege 特权

With rail strikes continuing into their third week and travellers scrambling to get to home for the holidays, Macron, who turned 42 this weekend, made the symbolic move to become the first president in more than 50 years to give up the automatic pension of more than €6, 000 a month that all French leaders receive after leaving office, regardless of age or wealth.

Macron's office added that he would not take his seat in France's constitutional court, where former presidents are members for life and receive a monthly allowance of €13, 500.

Le Parisien newspaper hailed Macron's decision to **forfeit** his presidential pension as "breaking with a dusty tradition of republican **monarchy**".

forfeit 丧失; 罚款

monarchy 君主制

Despite the strikes, the government insists it will **plough** ahead to unify the French pensions system, arguing that getting rid of the 42 special **regimes** for sectors ranging from rail and energy workers to lawyers and Paris Opera staff is crucial to keep the system financially **viable** as the population ages.

plough 破浪前进

regime 政权; 社会制度

viable 可行的

Macron urged the strikers to ease up for Christmas, saying they should embrace a "spirit of responsibility". On a visit to Ivory Coast, he said: "Strike action is justifiable and protected by the constitution, but I think there are moments in a nation's life when it is good to observe a truce out of respect for families and family life."