



The News

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by Sarah Heath

The 40th anniversary of the TGV is being celebrated today by the SNCF at the Gare de Lyon. Especially for the occasion, the railway company is unveiling the TGV of the future in the presence of President Macron. The Head of State will be unveiling a full-scale model of the new train which will be in service from 2024.

The suspect who had put up images on billboards of Emmanuel Macron dressed as Hitler and Pétain has been heard at the Toulon Criminal Court this morning for "public insult". The offence is punishable by a fine of €12,000. The case went to court after the Head of State filed an official complaint.

Jean-Michel Blanquer is stepping up to take action against a smear campaign spread widely on social networks. It targets sixième collège students born in 2010. Since the start of the school year, the hashtag Anti 2010 has spread insults and even threats. The Education Minister has said that he considers the campaign "stupid and contrary to our values".

French midwives will finally benefit from a salary increase of €100 gross per month from January and also receive a bonus of €100 as announced by the Ministry of Health. This additional government pay out will amount to a total of €40 million per year and three quarters of the 23,500 midwives in France will benefit.

Olivier Faure has been re-elected as the head of the Socialist Party. He won more than 73% of the votes against his only competitor, Hélène Geoffroy, the mayor of Vaulx-en-Velin. He will be officially re-elected this weekend when the results have been ratified by the party congress in Villeurbanne, a meeting which Anne Hidalgo will not attend. A presidential candidate, Ms Hidalgo is staying in Paris to focus on heritage projects.

And finally to news of the first tourists on a trip to space. The four Americans are "happy" and "in good health" according to SpaceX, the company owned by Elon Musk. In addition to the tourist aspect, this mission aims to study the effects of space on this particular crew which is made up entirely of amateur space travellers.