



The News

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On this 4th day of trial of the railroad disaster of Brétigny-sur-Orge there was a much-awaited testimony, that of Guillaume Pepy. The former head of the SNCF was heard today by the Evry criminal court. He tried to explain the derailment of the Paris-Limoges train in 2013, a tragedy that caused 7 deaths and more than 400 injured. After having addressed his solidarity to the families of victims, Guillaume Pepy recognized the moral fault of the SNCF. He is being judged along with a railway worker for homicides and involuntary injuries. The hearings are scheduled to last 8 weeks.

Orpéa is facing serious difficulties. An investigation has been opened by the Nanterre prosecutor's office against the private group of retirement homes. Serious malfunctions have been identified by an administrative investigation commissioned by the government. The investigation points out the mistreatment of residents of the nursing homes and embezzlement of public funds. These facts were first revealed in the shocking book *Les Fossoyeurs* published last February.

The upcoming five-year term will be a collective term, says the government spokesperson. Gabriel Attal spoke at the end of the Council of Ministers, which will be the last for Jean Castex. The Prime Minister will submit his resignation in the coming days. Emmanuel Macron will then have to find his successor for Matignon and it may be a woman. Among the names mentioned are those of Christine Lagarde, Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet and Elisabeth Borne.

In Ukraine, the UN is preparing an attempt to evacuate the population from Mariupol. In total 100,000 people are still in this strategic city, almost entirely controlled by Russian forces. Moreover, the Secretary General visited today several destroyed cities, including Boutcha where hundreds of civilian bodies were found after the departure of Russian forces last month.

And then it's a first in Europe: Spain is going to ban advertisements for toys that are deemed sexist. From December 1st, pink will no longer be associated with girls or certain jobs reserved for boys. As a reminder, in France, a charter signed in 2019 encourages manufacturers to promote the diversity of toys.