



## The News December 22nd, 1pm © by Nia Cason

On the eve of the SNCF strike movement, the Minister of the Economy Bruno le Maire is demanding a solution from management in the next few hours. The boss of the SNCF Jean-Pierre Farandou acknowledges that it is too late to avoid the disturbances of this weekend. However, he believes it is still possible to avoid the New Year's weekend disruptions, and will meet with the unions tomorrow morning. The Minister of Transport Clément Beaune specifies that he cannot make requisitions. It is not legally possible in this case.

A gathering was organized this morning in Vaulx-en-Velin, almost a week after a fire in a building, which killed ten people, including four children. Several hundred people marched to pay tribute to the victims. Meanwhile, the investigation continues to determine the causes of the tragedy. It is not yet known whether the fire was of accidental or criminal origin.

In the Alpes-Maritimes, a supervisor of the prison of Grasse has been hospitalized after being assaulted by an inmate. The inmate, described as psychologically unstable, was already known for similar acts of violence.

The Minister of Education Pap Ndiaye is worried about the level of French pupils. According to him, international comparisons reveal worrying shortcomings. He proposes to set ambitious objectives, especially in terms of conjugation and grammar. Announcements should be made at the beginning of the year.

After Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to the United States, the Kremlin has accused Washington of waging an "indirect war" against Russia, and believes that President Biden and President Zelensky have shown no willingness to listen to Russian concerns. Before the American Congress, the Ukrainian president assured that his country would never surrender.