



## The News

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*by Nia Cason*

The Catholic Church holds its breath. Former Pope Benoit XVI is said to be "seriously ill" according to Pope Francis. With a general audience, the Pope asked for a "special prayer" for his predecessor. Benoit XVI, aged 95, was Pope for almost 8 years, from 2005 to 2013.

French Minister for the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu is taking his very first trip to Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion. He arrived in Kyiv this morning and is on hand to show France's support for the country. He will visit the dead at the Heroes' monument in Kyiv in the company of his Ukrainian counterpart.

François Braun strongly condemns the strike of liberal doctors. While traveling to Annecy, the Minister of Health considers that this movement is unwelcome, in a context of triple epidemics and overloaded emergency services. The doctors decided this week to close their offices to ask for a revaluation of the price of consultations, from 25 to 50 euros.

According to the Minister of Health, Covid is circulating much less and contaminations with bronchitis have fallen to the level of the peaks of previous years. François Braun has reported that there is, however, an explosion of flu cases.

A record year for the SNCF. The railway company's profits amount to more than two billion euros in 2022 according to Le Parisien, which is almost 3 times more than last year. This is a very good outcome, but is not likely to have any repercussions on salaries or on ticket prices. The SNCF is obliged to pay 60% of this to the fund used to finance the work of the network.