



The News

January 11th, 8am ©

by Sarah Heath

French workers' unions are battling against the pension reforms presented yesterday by the Prime Minister, Elisabeth Borne. The new proposals have stated that the legal retirement age will gradually increase from 62 years of age to 64 years of age by the year 2030. Most special retirement schemes will be abolished for those newly entering the workforce. As a result, unions have announced a united protest which was called for by Laurent Berger, general secretary of the CFDT. All left-wing parties also plan to join the protest.

Meanwhile in the National Assembly, the bill on renewable energies was adopted last night at its first reading, thanks in part to the support of the Socialist Party. The bill aims to facilitate the establishment of wind farms, particularly at sea, and the installation of solar panels near motorways or on public car parks.

The future of Noël Le Graët could be decided later this morning at the French Football Federation. The president of the FFF could be pushed out by the executive committee that he himself convened. The 81-year-old leader is in turmoil after accusations of sexual harassment, and his controversial comments on Zinedine Zidane.

In the United States, California continues to be hit by storms and torrential rain after battling for several days with extreme weather. The latest news from the west coast of the country reports at least 16 people have died. Many residents have been trapped by flooding and more than 150,000 homes are still without electricity.

And finally to sport and handball news. Today sees the kickoff of the men's world championship where France is aiming for a seventh title. The blues open the competition tonight against the Polish host. The match starts at 9 o'clock.