



## The News

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*by Sarah Heath*

"Shake the walls of the Elysée" has become the rallying cry of Fabien Roussel, the leader of the French Communist Party who is pushing for large-scale demonstrations tomorrow to protest against proposed pension reforms. Tomorrow is likely to be a difficult day for those going to school and those using transport networks: the SNCF has announced only 1 TER out of 10 on average including 1 TGV out of 3 in the North and South-East parts of the country, 1 TGV out of 4 in the East and 1 TGV out of 5 on the Atlantic side.

President Macron has responded to the many criticisms after his remarks made during his wishes for 2023. The Head of State has declared "who could have predicted the climate crisis?". On his YouTube channel last night, he stated that his words were "misunderstood", and that he meant that climate crisis "had moved even faster than expected".

The number of births in France has gone down according to INSEE. 723,000 babies were born last year, a figure that hasn't been so low since the end of the Second World War.

The fire in the warehouses of Grand-Couronne, near Rouen, is now "under control". The fire broke out on Monday in a building owned by Bolloré and where thousands of lithium batteries were stored. Air samples taken in the surrounding areas did not show any risk to the public according to the préfecture.

She was oldest living person in the world but French nun Sister André died yesterday in her nursing home in Toulon at the age of 118. Born in Alès in the Gard in 1904, she lived through the two World Wars and 18 French presidents.

And finally to French rugby news and the announcement of the list of 42 players for the Six Nations tournament. The list includes several newcomers like Racing player, Nolann Le Garrec and Bordeaux winger Louis Bielle-Biarrey. The first match for the blues in this year's tournament kicks off on February the 5th against Italy.