



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Trains will start to run again today through Paris' Gare de l'Est but their running times will be disrupted after an act of arson yesterday that resulted in a total interruption of all trains. Today, the SNCF says that a third of TGV trains will be running at peak times and half during off peak times. After yesterday's incident, the rail operator will be filing a complaint for sabotage.

Trains may also not be running as normal during the upcoming school holidays. The railway workers branch of the union CGT the SUD-Rail union are proposing that SNCF workers strike from mid-February onwards in a bid to make the government reconsider its pension reform. The two unions have announced a two-day strike action on February 7 and 8 in addition to the nationwide strike across professions planned for January 31.

The government's plan to avoid another summer of drought is outlined today in the newspaper *Le Parisien*. The Minister for Ecological Transition, Christophe Béchu explains that the aim is to reduce water consumption by 10% over the next five years as "nature leaves us no choice". The government is intending to develop a water equivalent to the Ecowatt. In the pipeline are a website and an app that will let users known in real time the state of water reserves in their area.

The prosecutor has recommended a two year prison sentence for a couple prosecuted for mistreatment in the Pas de Calais. The trial was held yesterday before the court of Béthune. The man and the woman are parents to ten children. In late August this year, the children were found tied to chairs and obviously lacking in care and hygiene. All of the children have been placed in foster care. The court is yet to render its decision.

And finally to sport and the skiing world cup. French competitor Clément Noel is celebrating after winning the night slalom race in Austria last night. The win is a real confidence boost for Noel who has had a victory drought since taking gold at the Olympics last February. Clément Noel is now set up nicely for the world championships at Courchevel-Méribel which get started in just a couple of weeks.