



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Personnel in the country's ports and oil refineries are being urged to strike today. The union CGT is keeping the pressure up ahead of the inter-union strike day scheduled for January 31. Meanwhile, a poll has found that there is mounting opposition to the government's pension reform plans. According to the poll, 72% of French people are against the new bill, a jump of 6 points compared to the same poll taken last week.

Train running times are back to normal today at Paris' Gare de l'Est. All trains should be running as scheduled after 48 hours of chaos at the train station. Acts of arson were carried out on dozens of electric cables in a signal box in the Seine et Marne. The SNCF is pointing to an act of sabotage. For the moment, no suspects have been identified.

Emmanuel Macron and Elisabeth Borne are meeting with their very first Ecological Planning Council this morning. The meeting will be attended by the Ministers of Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Industry, Biodiversity and Housing. Emmanuel Macron made the announcement a week ago that the meeting would be taking place. The President claims it will be time for taking stock of the actions that should be taken over the next few years and decades to address climate change.

The French citizen Sébastien Raoult has been extradited to the United States. The student from Epinal had been detained in Morocco since May 2022 on suspicion of computer hacking. The FBI suspects him of being a member of a powerful group of cybercriminals.

And finally the author Riad Sattouf stepped away with the grand prix last night at the festival of Angoulême. This is the most prestigious prize in the world of graphic novels, or as they are often referred to in France and in Belgium, "BD". The author of "*L'Arabe du Futur*" is one of the most widely read in France. The 6 volumes in the series which tells the story of his youth in Syria have sold nearly 3 million copies.