



## The News

**October 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am ©**

*by Sarah Heath*

There has been a terrorist attack in Belgium. A man opened fire last night in the centre of Brussels and killed at least 2 people. The 2 known victims were Swedish supporters, who came to see the football match between Belgium and Sweden – a match which was then abandoned. The suspect is still on the run this morning and an investigation has been opened involving the Belgian anti-terrorist prosecution. France has announced a strengthening of border controls with Belgium and President Macron said that "Europe has had a knock".

The Head of State will attend the funeral of teacher, Dominique Bernard this Thursday. Mr Bernard was murdered on Friday by a terrorist at the Gambetta high school in Arras. Yesterday, numerous gatherings took place all over France to pay tribute to the teacher – a minute's silence was also observed in schools and in front of each town hall.

Europe is on standby to help the Palestinians in Gaza. This week, the EU will open a humanitarian air corridor to Gaza, via Egypt. The enclave has been besieged for days by the Israeli army in response to the Hamas attack. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced yesterday that this will help provide aid to the population.

"Make work pay better" were the words of Elisabeth Borne as she brought together employers and unions yesterday for the opening of a conference on low wages. The Prime Minister launched an ultimatum to the 56 branches which have a pay level below the minimum wage. They have until June the 1st, 2024 to increase them, under a penalty of sanction for non-compliance.

The seasonal flu vaccination campaign kicks off today. For the first time, it is offered to children aged 2 to 17. Each year, the flu virus affects 2 to 6 million people in France and is responsible for around 9,000 deaths.

And finally to football. The French team welcomes Scotland this evening in Lille for a friendly match. The Blues are in great shape after having validated their qualification for the next Euros with a victory last Friday in the Netherlands. With the ongoing threat of terrorism, security around the Pierre Mauroy stadium will be reinforced. Kick-off is at 9 o'clock.