



## The News

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*by Noele Bouazouni-Prier*

The SNCF plans to run every other train this weekend on the TGV, Intercités and OUIGO networks because of the call for strike launched by the controllers. A movement which risks having a strong impact on vacation departures, as Zone A joins Zone C. The group's management has set several priorities, starting with the TGV. All connections will be provided, but with fewer trains according to Christophe Fanichet, CEO of *SNCF Voyageurs*. Priority also for trains to the Alps so as not to penalize mountain vacationers. However, no traffic plan has been communicated concerning the TER.

Nicolas Sarkozy is sentenced to six months in prison on appeal in the Bygmalion case. It is less than in first instance, but the former president does not want to stop there. He will appeal, says his lawyer who is pleading for his acquittal. According to Maître Vincent Desry, Nicolas Sarkozy is completely innocent, as he was not aware of the illegal excess of his campaign expenses during the 2012 presidential election.

Meanwhile, Gerald Darmanin has been definitively cleared by the Court. The Court validates the dismissal of charges in the case of rape accusations against the Minister of the Interior. The complaint was filed by a former supporter of the UMP, the party of which he was a member at the time of the alleged events. The decision puts an end to this legal procedure begun in 2017.

Also in the news, Emmanuel Macron officially opens the way to the pantheonization of Robert Badinter. The Head of State delivered a speech during the national tribute paid to the former Minister of Justice at noon. "A moral conscience that nothing erases, not even death", said the president who praised the fight of Robert Badinter who, he says, "will forever remain the advocate of the abolition of the death penalty".

And then rugby. It's confirmed: Grégory Alldritt will not be with Les Bleus for their next match at the 6 Nations Tournament against Italy. Injured in the thigh against Scotland, the captain of the *XV de France* will be absent for 15 days to 3 weeks, according to the Team and should therefore be able to return against Wales on March 10.