



## The News

**March 4th 12pm**

by Noele Bouazouni-Prier

The majority and the oppositions celebrate a “historic” day. France is preparing to become the first country to include freedom of voluntary termination of pregnancy in the Constitution. MPs and senators meet at the Palace de Versailles from 3:30 p.m. to vote on the constitutional revision on the freedom to abort. The session will begin at 3:30 p.m and the voting will be open for 45 minutes.

Taxis are once again mobilized today almost everywhere in France. Their objective is to obtain the withdrawal of the new agreement between their profession and the *Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie* on medical transportation. Several go-slow operations are underway. This is particularly the case in Ile de France but also in Toulouse, Bordeaux and Nîmes.

The tragedy had resulted in 11 deaths and 42 people injured on November 14, 2015, the day after the Paris attacks. The trial of the TGV accident in Alsace opens today in Paris. The train had derailed and ended its trajectory in a canal. The TGV was apparently going too fast. The SNCF and the driver among others are being tried for injuries and manslaughter due to recklessness or negligence.

Abroad, negotiations resumed yesterday for a possible truce in Gaza, with talks led by Qatar, the United States and Egypt. Yesterday morning Hamas indicated that an agreement may be signed within 24 to 48 hours if Israel accepted its conditions. As for Joe Biden, he said on Friday that he hoped a truce would take place before Ramadan, that is to say in a week.

Still 4 departments placed under orange alert by Météo France. This concerns Charente Maritime for the risk of flooding but also Savoie, the Hautes Alpes and the Alpes Maritimes for avalanches.