



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The motion of no confidence in the government under François Bayrou continues to be the subject of debate in the Assemblée Nationale, although it has no chance of success. The Parti Socialiste has indicated that it will not be voting in favour of the motion after the prime minister committed to several amendments in his general policy. These include doing away with the prospect of civil servants having a three-day wait period before being paid any sick leave. Meanwhile, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the head of the leftwing party France Insoumise, took to social media earlier to slam the socialists' decision to not back the motion of no confidence and accuse the party of fracturing the leftwing alliance, the Nouveau Front Populaire.

Electricity rates are due to fall by 15% as of February 1st. The indication comes from the national Energy Regulatory Commission, due to a drop in electricity rates over the past weeks on wholesale markets. More than 24 million households will see the difference with the reduced rate when they receive their bills.

The Ministry of Health continues to urge the public to get vaccinated against the flu. Today, the organisation Santé Publique France confirmed that last week had seen the "marked severity of the epidemic" resulting in "very high hospital activity" and a "marked increase in deaths". The number of flu-related deaths is now at its highest since 2019.

In Gaza, the Hamas Health Ministry says that more than 80 people have been killed in the past 24 hours. The news comes just as a ceasefire deal was finally reached yesterday, an agreement that was due to come into force on Sunday. In the meantime, Israel has accused Hamas of backtracking on certain points.

And finally, to the biathlon world cup where Lou Jeanmonnot won the 15km individual competition earlier today. The French athlete put in a flawless performance in the shooting component of the competition in Ruhpolding, Germany and is now second overall.