



The News

January 17th, 4pm ©

by Emma Phillips

Israel's security cabinet has approved the ceasefire agreement with Hamas to bring to an end to 15 months of fighting in Gaza. After a delay that had sparked fears that the agreement could collapse, the security cabinet's approval means that now the deal will go to Israel's full cabinet for signoff. Once the deal has that final approval, it can be implemented on Sunday and the release of hostages and prisoners can begin.

An agreement on pensions could be reached by the end of May. This is the objective that has been set by François Bayrou as his first meeting with social partners came to an end today. The prime minister stressed that he puts his trust in the responsibility inherent to social dialogue. However, general secretary of the union CGT, Sophie Binet came out with a much less optimistic view of how the early afternoon's events had unfolded. She stated that the meeting had only highlighted the extent that the various social partners were in disagreement, particularly with employers.

In education, a pass in the "brevet" exams that all pupils sit at the age of 16 will not be necessary to gain a place in lycée. Elisabeth Borne has finally backtracked on one of the measures included in the bundle known as the "choc des savoirs" introduced in December 2023. Now, the minister of education has said that she intends to roll out new support systems for 16-year-olds not able to obtain a pass in the brevet.

And finally, today marks 50 years since abortion was made legal in France. Earlier today, Emmanuel Macron took to X to pay tribute to Simone Veil, who while health minister, addressed the Assemblée Nationale in 1974 to propose the law that would legalise abortion. In his post, the president praised how Veil had "made history by courageously defending a law for women, for their freedom and for their dignity". Emmanuel Macron also stressed that France is the only country in the world that has explicitly included the right to abortion in its constitution.