



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

The special consultation between employers and unions on pension reform that has been dubbed the pension “conclave” has resumed today with fewer parties coming to the negotiating table. The union CGT finally decided to abandon the process in protest at François Bayrou’s outright refusal earlier this week to return to a retirement age of 62. CGT secretary general Sophie Binet has said that the prime minister has gone back on his word. The unions CFTC, CFE-CGC and CFDT are in attendance at today’s meeting.

The public health insurance system Assurance Maladie picked up and dealt with a record 628 million euros’ worth of fraud last year, with 2024 seeing a hike of 35% on 2023. A dissuasion strategy has been put in place to tackle any attempts to abuse the system by fraudulent healthcare professionals. Assurance Maladie has also detected a rise in fake work stoppage doctor’s notes for sale on social media.

The minister for education, Elisabeth Borne met earlier with Alain Esquerre, the spokesperson for the victims of the Notre-Dame de Bétharram school. Mr Esquerre stated that violence including acts of torture and sexual assault had been systematic at the school in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, with over 150 complaints filed involving the school. Elisabeth Borne has pledged that 40% of private schools under contract will be inspected within the next two years.

Senators will be looking today at a bill that sets out to pardon women who were convicted of illegal abortions. Socialist party official Laurence Rossignol, the former minister for women's rights, is behind that bill that aims to recognise women’s suffering prior to the decriminalisation of abortion in 1975.

And finally to football and Kylian Mbappé will be making his comeback to the France team tonight as Les Bleus play away to Croatia in the first leg of the UEFA Nations League. That kick-off is at 8:45pm.