



The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

As the conflict in Ukraine reaches its fifth day, the possibility of talks is on the horizon. A Ukrainian delegation has allegedly arrived in Belarus to begin negotiations with Russia. This is what is reported by the British paper, The Spectator. The Belarusian authorities have announced that they are ready to host discussions.

For now, Ukrainians continue to resist Russian assaults on Kyiv and the country's second city, Kharkiv. The Russian army claims it has surrounded two major cities in southern Ukraine, Kherson and Berdyansk. New Russian convoys and Belarusian troops are approaching.

Europe has pledged more indirect aid to Ukraine. In a historic first, the EU will finance the purchase and delivery of arms and other equipment. Europe has also announced a fresh round of sanctions on Russia. 31 European countries, including France, have prohibited the use of their airspace to Russian companies.

With sanctions on his country tightening up, Putin has lashed out against the rest of the world by threatening the nuclear option. The Russian President claims that he has "put the deterrent forces of the Russian army on special combat alert". In the meantime, the past few days have seen the Ruble in free fall. It lost 30% against the dollar on Monday.

This is a war that is also playing out on social networks. Meta has confirmed that it has closed several fake facebook accounts that had been created by pro-Russian groups to portray Ukraine as a mere pawn in the grip of Westerners. Google Maps has cut off some of its some functionality in Ukraine to safeguard against the application being used to track troop movements.

Lionel Guedj, the millionaire dental surgeon accused of disfiguring several hundred of his patients in Marseille goes on trial from today at the Marseille criminal court. 322 civil parties are involved in the trial and will be taking part from a specially equipped room. From 2006 to 2012, Lionel Guedj allegedly disfigured his patients in order to replace their real teeth with prostheses.

And finally to rugby and it seems that after the weekend that Toulouse is back on track. After a disappointing run of 6 defeats in the top 14, yesterday, Toulouse won 12-11 against the top-ranked team the Bordeaux Bègles.