



The News

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by Emma Phillips

A citizens' consultation on how to handle the end of life begins its work today in Paris at the headquarters of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council. The 173 people who were randomly selected to take part will spend the next four months discussing the issue of whether to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide. For now, both practices are prohibited in France.

The numbers involved in the 9th wave of COVID are ramping up as more than 71 thousand new cases were detected between Wednesday and Thursday. This gives more than a 3% increase in cases over the last seven days. The Minister of Health François Braun is due to give a press conference at 5 p.m. today addressing the public health situation in France. He may broach the subject of making it compulsory to wear masks again.

37% of France's nuclear power resources are still shut down. Data from the energy provider EDF has been analysed by the Agence France Presse. Eighteen of the country's 56 reactors are currently under maintenance. The coming days could see a tense time for France's energy resources as temperatures continue to fall.

Paris experienced a largescale power cut last night as the city of lights was plunged into darkness. 125,000 homes in the centre of the capital were without electricity in an unplanned power outage. Grid managers Enedis and RTE say there was a "technical incident" on a transformer. Most of the homes affected had the lights back on by midnight.

Nick Carter is back in the news for all the wrong reasons. The former star of 90s boy band the Backstreet Boys has been accused of rape by an autistic former fan. The rape allegedly took place in 2001 when the victim was just 17 years old. Nick Carter was also accused of rape in 2001 by American singer Melissa Schuman.

Looking to Qatar now and today sees the World Cup quarter finals get underway! Two matches are lined up today, Croatia play Brazil at 4 p.m. and the Netherlands play Argentina at 8 p.m. France will be playing tomorrow at 8 p.m. Les Bleus are up against England.

And finally a brief word on the orange weather alert that was issued this morning. The Savoie département has been placed on alert by Météo France for snow and ice. Heavy snowfall is expected this morning.