



## The News

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm©**

*by Noele Bouazouni-Prier*

France has just experienced 31 days without significant rain. All regions are concerned without exception. Since December most regions have shown a significant deficit of rain. Occitania is particularly affected.

The appeal trial of Nicolas Zépéda is postponed until Thursday. The trial had begun this morning before the Circuit Court of Haute-Saône in Vesoul. The 32-year-old Chilean is retried for the murder of his ex-girlfriend in 2016 in Besançon. The body of the 21-year-old Japanese student has never been found. From the beginning of the trial, the defendant challenged his lawyer before appointing a new one. He asked for 48 hours to prepare his defence.

Also in the news, almost a year ago, to the day, after the start of the war in Ukraine, the Russian President gave a speech to the nation this morning before parliamentarians in Moscow. He accused Western countries of being responsible for the war and its escalation. He stated that he was going to reach his objectives, adding that it was impossible to beat Russia.

A speech to which Joe Biden will respond, the day after his surprise visit to Kiev. The American president is today in Poland - a neighbour of Ukraine and faithful ally in the conflict. Joe Biden will speak this evening from Warsaw to recall in particular the support of the United States.

And a hard blow for Zalando: The online ready-to-wear specialist will cut several hundred jobs around the world. The economic situation is very complicated for digital players who have multiplied layoffs these past months, mainly because of high inflation and rising interest rates.

We are going to end with a record: more than 9 billion euros net were deposited in January on the Livret A. This is unheard of since 2009 for the preferred investment of the French.