



## The News

**December 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am**

*by Emma Phillips*

The mixed committee made up of representatives from the Assemblée Nationale and the senate has started work again this morning on a new version of the immigration bill. The Minister of the Interior, Gerald Darmanin has claimed on channel France 2 this morning that agreements have been reached on practically every aspect of the text. The committee has so far focused on fifteen or so articles and yet it is the issue of social benefits for foreigners that has held up discussions between the government and the right.

The verdict is due today in the trial of Monique Olivier. Yesterday, a life sentence with no possibility of parole for at least 22 years was recommended after three weeks before the Assizes court of Hauts de Seine. Monique Olivier is the former wife of the rapist and serial killer Michel Fourniret. She is accused of aiding and abetting in the kidnappings and murders of Marie Angele Domece, Johanna Parrish and Estelle Mouzin.

French private health insurance prices are set to rise by as much as 10% next year, according to the latest study. Health Minister Aurelien Rousseau says the increases are unacceptable.

In Iceland, a volcano erupted last night near the village of Grindavik, which was evacuated on 11<sup>th</sup> November after a series of tremors. Iceland has the highest number of volcano systems in Europe.

And finally, tickets for the carnival in Nice go on sale today! Prices for the 151<sup>st</sup> edition, the theme of which is pop culture, range from 5 to 28 euros for adults and kids. The carnival will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March.