



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Seven members of parliament and seven senators are currently locked in debate as part of the joint committee that is taking place behind closed doors on the 2025 social security budget. The objective this evening is to reach an agreement on the text, which prime minister Michel Barnier may use article 49-3 of the constitution to pass without an ultimate vote. Doing so would expose the prime minister to a vote of no confidence from the lower house. Michel Barnier has warned that delaying the budget and a vote of no confidence could spark serious turbulence in the financial markets.

The trial on the fake parliamentary assistant jobs for the Rassemblement National party came to an end today. The final day of the trial included the closing arguments from the lawyer for Marine Le Pen, who urged for the case to be dropped. The public prosecutor has recommended a two-year prison sentence and a 300,000 euro fine for the head of the RN, as well as Marine Le Pen to be considered unfit to run for public office for five years.

Eight months after the human bones were discovered that belonged to toddler Emile Soleil, twenty investigators remain on the case. The head of the gendarmerie has assured that the active investigation continues to find out exactly what happened to two-year-old Emile after he went missing from his grandparents' care in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region in July 2023.

And finally to the Vendée Globe, Sébastien Simon has set a new record for the longest distance covered in 24 hours by a single-handed monohull. The skipper from the Vendée has now passed the 600-mile mark in the round the world race.