



The News

February 7th, 1pm ©

by Emma Phillips

François Bayrou wants to get public debate underway on what the “droit du sol”, or the right to the French nationality by virtue of being born in France, really means. The Prime Minister intends to broach the question of what it means to be French and the rights and duties holding nationality entails, as the minister for justice, Gérald Darmanin is calling for a referendum on the issue. Yesterday, members of the lower house gave a first green light to a bill that sets out to restrict the “droit du sol” in Mayotte. With the bill, in order for any child born in Mayotte to obtain French nationality, that child’s parents would have to have been present on French territory for at least three years.

Over 4,000 people smugglers were arrested last year in France. The news comes from the French Office for Migrant Smuggling. In 2024, there were over 600 crossings made in makeshift boats across the English channel that meant more than 36,000 migrants reached UK shores, an increase of 24% over the course of the year. 78 people died while attempting the crossing.

The decision is expected today in the appeal trial of the driver of the Millas school bus. The fatal accident in 2017 cost the lives of six schoolchildren in the Pyrénées-Orientales region when their school bus was hit by a train. The driver has always claimed that the level crossing barriers were raised at the time of the accident which is why she drove the bus onto the tracks, a claim that has been disputed by several witnesses. In the initial trial, the driver received a five-year sentence, including one year in prison.

And finally to football and the start of match day 21 in the Ligue 1 this evening, Nantes will be playing Brest and Paris Saint Germain are up against Monaco.