



## The News

**March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm ©**

*by Emma Phillips*

François Bayrou has said that France and Europe should “pool all means possible” in a bid to “replace” US military aid to Ukraine. The prime minister addressed the Assemblée Nationale earlier today, as Donald Trump’s administration has suspended delivery of all US military aid to Ukraine. A meeting between the US and Ukraine presidents at the White House on Friday ended in a row after Donald Trump accused Volodymyr Zelenskyy of disrespect and ingratitude. Today in his speech, France’s prime minister confirmed that the supply of US aid “is coming to an end, with entire trains loaded for Ukraine at a halt and unable to reach their destination”.

Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said that Europe is “ready to massively boost its defence spending” to address “the most momentous and dangerous of times”. The European Commission has proposed to borrow up to 150 billion euros to lend to EU governments as part of a rearmament plan amid fears that Europe can no longer be sure of US protection.

Joël Le Scouarnec has admitted to “taking advantage of his status in order to commit assaults”. The disgraced former surgeon faced questions at the criminal court of Morbihan today, in particular on his medical practice. Le Scouarnec has been on trial since last week for nearly 300 rapes and sexual assaults committed against patients who were minors over a period spanning 30 years. Tomorrow, his victims will take the stand.

The public prosecutor's office in Nanterre has recommended a murder trial for the police officer who was responsible for the death of 16-year-old Nahel Merzouk. The officer shot the teenager at point-blank range in 2023 after he refused to comply with a police order. An investigation found that the officer had not been in any “imminent danger”.

And finally to football and the Champions League is back tonight with the start of the first leg matches of the Round of 16. Lille will play Borussia Dortmund at 9pm while the Madrid derby will also be playing at the same time between Real and Atlético Madrid.