



## The News

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm ©**

*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron has issued a strong reminder that the justice system is “independent” and that judges “must be protected”. The president addressed the conseil des ministres this morning in the wake of Marine Le Pen being barred from running in the 2027 presidential election. The statement came as the public prosecutor’s office opened an investigation into threats that have been made against the judges who handed down Monday’s decision on Marine Le Pen and other individuals from the party Rassemblement National. The head judge of the court has been placed under police protection.

Meanwhile, the Rassemblement National is claiming that the outcome of the embezzlement case has boosted party membership, with the RN boasting 10,000 new members since Monday. The party is now calling on its supporters to gather for a rally in Paris on Sunday afternoon. RN president Jordan Bardella has been quick to dismiss all criticism of the rally, stating that it was “an expression of democracy”.

In the United States, president Donald Trump has declared today, April 2<sup>nd</sup> “liberation day” for the US with a series of sweeping tariffs, the extent of which is not yet known. In France, government spokesperson Sophie Primas has assured that the EU will take action in response to the new tariffs before the end of April.

A bill that could decide on construction work resuming on the A69 motorway will be put to the Senate in May, put forward by the parliamentary group Union Centriste. The announcement came from Philippe Folliot, the senator for Tarn, who has been a staunch defender of the project to link Toulouse and Castres by motorway. Construction work on the A69 was brought to a halt at the end of February further to a judgment from the administrative courts.

And finally, everyone applying for a place at university has until midnight to get their applications in on the online platform Parcoursup. The first university offers are expected to be sent out from June 2<sup>nd</sup>.