



## **The News**

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*by Emma Phillips*

A new proposed bill on the end of life has been put to the Assemblée Nationale today as the Minister for Health opened the discussion by urging elected officials in the lower house to not close their eyes to people suffering. Catherine Vautrin also said that France needed its own model for managing the end of life and called attention to patients who are currently waiting without answers. The bill will be the focus of discussion for 15 days.

A report on date rape drugs was submitted to the government this afternoon. It contains 50 recommendations to combat the use of the drugs, including 15 that are due to be implemented “as a priority” before the year is out. Supporters for the report include MP Sandrine Josso, who has accused Senator Joël Guerriau of drugging her without her knowledge.

An investigation into “pre-meditated murder” has been opened in Saône et Loire after a 55-year-old Ukrainian woman was shot dead in the street in Chauffailles in the early hours of the morning. The victim's husband is now in police custody. The public prosecutor's office in Mâcon has said that the husband had been under judicial supervision and was due to appear in court in ten days’ time for domestic violence.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot has pledged that France will provide an “immediate” response to a further round of French civil servants being sent away from Algeria. Algiers plans to expel 15 French embassy staff as diplomatic tension continues to rise between France and Algeria. Today, Jean-Noël Barrot called the latest decision “incomprehensible”.

And finally, the beach-lined Boulevard de la Croisette is once again braced to go and ready to play host to the Cannes Film Festival that gets underway tomorrow. This year's festival will be presided over by Juliette Binoche, and the opening ceremony tomorrow evening is set to feature a performance by Mylène Farmer, who will reportedly be treating the audience to a previously unreleased track.