



## The News

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5pm ©**

*by Emma Phillips*

The Minister for Transport has branded air traffic controller demands “unacceptable” as a two-day strike got underway today. Philippe Tabarot also expressed concern for the millions of euros that the industrial action will cost airlines as cancelled flights affect tens of thousands of passengers. Unions of air traffic controllers are particularly opposed to the potential future requirement for staff starting work to have to clock in.

The matter of the suspected drugging of member of parliament Sandrine Josso is being referred to the Senate ethics committee by the President of the Upper House, Gérard Larcher. Senator Joël Guerriau now risks a disciplinary sanction for allegedly drugging Ms Josso in order to sexually assault her two years ago. He will also be tried in November by the Paris Criminal Court.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot is calling for the release of Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris. The two French nationals have been detained in Iran for over three years after they were charged with ‘spying’ for Israel and ‘plotting to overthrow the regime’. They also potentially face the death penalty. Now, Jean-Noël Barrot is advocating sanctions against the Iranian regime.

More than three million people took advantage of this year’s Fête du Cinéma, which saw five days of selected cinema tickets at 5 euros and that came to an end yesterday. The National Federation of French Cinemas hailed the 40th edition a ‘very good result’ with attendance matching the year 2023 but well below last year’s record edition which counted a staggering 4.5 million ticket sales.

And finally, 17 départements are still on amber weather alert for the heatwave. In the south-east of the country, Météo France has forecast temperatures of up to 38 degrees.