



The News

January 13th, 8am ©

by *Emma Phillips*

Will Marine Le Pen be able to run in next year's presidential election? This is the question that is looming large as the appeal trial opens this afternoon of parliamentary assistants of MEPs from the Rassemblement National party. The past weeks have seen Marine Le Pen continue to insist she is innocent. At the end of the first trial, she was sentenced to four years in prison and was ruled ineligible to run for office. This new trial will conclude in a month's time.

Meanwhile, in the Assemblée Nationale, the budget is making its return to the lower house today, as the government is on a mission to get the bill passed before the end of the month, without resorting to Article 49.3 of the constitution. This ambition was set out by Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu after another meeting was held yesterday between the government team and parliamentary groups at Bercy.

On the railways, two unions are calling for a strike today at train operator SNCF. They are demanding higher wages and better working conditions. For the most part, trains will run today as normal, though disruptions are expected in the Ile-de-France and Occitanie.

The manager of the 'Le Constellation' bar in Crans Montana could be released in the coming days. Yesterday, the court in Switzerland ordered that Jacques Moretti remain in custody due to the risk of him absconding. The detention order could be lifted subject to various conditions being met, including the payment of bail.

Iran's supreme leader has welcomed pro-government rallies, claiming that 'they have thwarted the plans of foreign enemies'. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke yesterday, as anti-government protests continued across the country. According to the NGO Iran Human Rights, at least 648 people have been killed in recent weeks.

And finally, to football and last night saw Paris Saint Germain legend Mamadou Sakho announce his retirement from sport. In 2014, the former French international was the hero of the return leg against Ukraine in the World Cup qualifiers.