



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

The 2026 finance bill looks set to get passed either via decree or via the use of article 49-3 of the constitution. Today, Sébastien Lecornu has given himself until Tuesday to decide between these two options, with the Prime Minister seemingly abandoning an adoption of the budget based on a vote in the Assemblée Nationale. Members of the government have been instructed to remain available this weekend in the event that an extraordinary cabinet meeting is called.

Jean-Noël Barrot has pledged that 'European sanctions' will come into force against Iran in the near future. The Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke on LCI news today, just as a UN security council meeting has been called on the matter. Meanwhile, the United States has announced economic sanctions against several Iranian security officials accused of coordinating the crackdown on protests against the regime.

During the same LCI interview, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the European Union had a 'strategic responsibility' in Greenland. During a visit to Latvia, Jean-Noël Barrot stressed that Denmark had the support of France in standing firm against any threats from US President Donald Trump. As for France's President, today in his New Year's address to the armed forces, Emmanuel Macron confirmed that France is set to send additional 'land, air and sea resources' to the area.

The President was speaking to the armed forces from Istres earlier today. During his address, he also insisted that France should be ready for 'efforts commensurate with the difficult times we are in'. He continued that 'To be free, you have to be feared and that to be feared, you have to be powerful'. Emmanuel Macron is calling for the military programming law to be increased by €36 billion by 2030, in order to increase France's stocks of ammunition.

And finally, the European Handball Championships get underway today, with defending champions France up against the Czech Republic. Ukraine and Norway are also in the same group as Les Bleus.