



The News

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by *Emma Phillips*

Joël Guerriau has asked Sandrine Josso to 'forgive' him. These were the words of the former senator from Loire-Atlantique this afternoon before the Paris Criminal Court. Guerriau is suspected of having drugged the elected representative for the same département as him without her knowledge with the intent of raping her in November 2023. Joël Guerriau continues to deny the allegations and has also insisted that he has never taken MDMA or purchased any type of drug.

Nicolas Sarkozy is looking to avoid having to wear an electronic tag again. The former President, who received a definitive conviction in the Bygmalion case in late 2025, has taken legal action to avoid serving his sentence. His lawyers have requested that his sentence be combined with the one handed that was during in the wiretapping case. A hearing is scheduled for 23 February.

The closure of Notre-Dame de Bétharram has been confirmed. The private school, which is at the centre of a scandal involving historical physical and sexual abuse, is set to close permanently within the next three months. Nearly 250 complaints have been filed over the past two years.

A ban on social media for minors under the age of 15 will be the subject of debate tonight in the Assemblée Nationale. The bill has been sponsored by the Renaissance parliamentary group and has the support of the government and Emmanuel Macron.

Two British anti-migrant activists were arrested last night near Calais. The individuals were taken into custody for inciting hatred and participating in a group with a view to preparing acts of violence. The two men were broadcasting live content on a YouTube channel that allegedly incited hatred.

And finally, the French handball team has its sights set on the Euro semi-finals. Les Bleus face Spain later today in their third match of the main round. That match gets underway at 6pm.