



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Social media will soon be banned for children under 15. The Assemblée Nationale adopted the measure last night, which is set to come into force at the start of the school year in 2026. Yesterday, left-wing party La France Insoumise voted against the measure while the majority of the Socialist party abstained. The bill will now be submitted to the Senate, where it will likely be discussed mid-February. If passed, the social media clampdown could see France become the second country after Australia to introduce such restrictive legislation for minors.

Joël Guerriau has pleaded stupidity and oversight as he continues to deny the charges against him. The trial of the former senator for Loire-Atlantique got underway yesterday before the Paris Criminal Court. He is suspected of drugging Sandrine Josso without her knowledge with a view to raping her in November 2023.

The prominent anti-drug trafficking campaigner, Amine Kessaci, has joined the list of the outgoing left-wing mayor Benoît Payan to stand in the municipal elections in Marseille. Amine has lost two of his brothers to drug gang violence in Marseille. 20-year-old Mehdi Kessaci was murdered on November 13<sup>th</sup>, as an alleged warning to Amine about his activism.

In a blow to the French video game industry, Ubisoft could be set to cut 200 jobs at its head offices in the Paris region. The group has been experiencing financial difficulties for several years. Last week, it announced a new cost-cutting plan worth €200 million over two years.

And finally, to handball and the European championships. The French team ended up losing 36-32 to Spain yesterday in the main round. Lucky for Les Bleus, the evening saw Denmark beat Germany. For France to reach the semi-finals, they must win against Germany in the next match tomorrow evening.