



## The News

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by *Emma Phillips*

The 2026 finance bill looks set to be adopted by the Assemblée Nationale today, bringing to an end 350 hours of debates on the budget in the lower house. Yesterday, members of parliament rejected two votes of no confidence, one tabled by left-wing parties not including the Parti Socialiste and the other by the extreme rightwing party the Rassemblement National. The bill still needs to be approved by the Constitutional Council. It sets out a surtax on the profits of large companies and provides for one-euro meals for students.

Emmanuel Macron will meet with farmers today. The President is on his way to Vesoul in the Haute-Saône where he will meet with agricultural unions later this morning. Emmanuel Macron is keen to show his support for the profession ahead of this year's Salon de l'Agriculture. He will also meet with high school students to discuss social media, which the government wants to ban for under 15s.

Today is another decisive day for Marine Le Pen in her appeal trial. Now that the legal team for the European Parliament has presented its arguments, today the general counsel will present the conclusions in the case, which centers on fictional European parliament assistant jobs for people who were actually working for the Front National. The prosecutor has requested that Marine Le Pen be considered not fit to run for office, preventing her from standing to run for President in 2027.

The Atlantic coast is braced for flooding today, with Charente-Maritime and Gironde on amber weather alert. High tides are due in the Gironde estuary. Flooding is also forecast in Bordeaux and Libourne.

And finally, Élodie Poux has been named comedian of the year. She was awarded the prize yesterday at the second edition of the Augustes de l'Humour comedy awards in Lille. More than thirty artists, including a mere eight women, were nominated in eight categories.