



NAVACELLE

Focus

A year of criminal justice:

major criminal trials from July 2025 to July 2026

Navacelle looks back at the criminal trials held in France that made headlines for their legal, political, social, or criminal significance.

July 2026

Patrick Balkany convicted of misappropriation of public funds: a new judicial chapter in the career of a former elected official already convicted.

In April 2026, two separate cases concerning the alleged improper use of public resources for personal purposes or for the benefit of relatives were examined by the Nanterre Criminal Court against Patrick Balkany, former mayor of Levallois-Perret, who had already been convicted notably for unlawful taking of interests and tax fraud.



Investigation

- 2016: opening of an investigation into several suspected breaches of probity in the management of public resources linked to the municipality of Levallois-Perret.
- First case: investigation into the use of funds from an association subsidised by the municipality, amounting to approximately €300,000, to supplement the remuneration of the city's former director of economic development.
- Second case: investigation into the assignment of municipal police officers to duties considered unrelated to their official functions, including private chauffeur services for Patrick Balkany and members of his entourage.



Trial

- April 2026 – Nanterre Criminal Court.
- During the hearing, Patrick Balkany denied the allegations and described the proceedings as a “judicial farce”.



Sentencing

28 May 2026

- First case: 15 months' imprisonment and a €350,000 fine.
- Second case: 3 years' imprisonment, a €500,000 fine, together with an additional 10-year ban on standing for public office and a 5-year prohibition from holding employment in the public service.



Upcoming legal proceedings

Patrick Balkany lodged an appeal against the decision.



Impacts

- **A highly publicised case, contributing to broader debates regarding public confidence in elected officials and the standards of probity required in the management of public funds and resources.**
- **The appeal raises particular issues given Patrick Balkany's age and the potential enforcement of a custodial sentence, including through the issuance of a committal order.**