

Marine Le Pen found guilty of embezzlement

The French far-right leader's conviction for misappropriating EU funds threatens to derail her bid for the presidency in 2027



LE PEN'S SENTENCE

- Barred from seeking public office for five years
- Four-year prison term – two years suspended and rest served under home detention
- €100,000 fine

ACCUSATION

- Le Pen and more than 20 other senior party figures diverted over €4.1 million of European funds to pay staff working for her National Rally party (RN)
- Defendants say money was used legitimately

WHAT IT MEANS

- Prison sentence and fine will not be applied until Le Pen's appeals are exhausted
- Five-year ban on seeking office begins immediately via so-called "provisional execution" measure requested by prosecutors. It will be lifted only if any appeal is upheld before 2027 election
- Ban will not see Le Pen removed from her seat in parliament until her mandate ends, though it will prevent her from running in any fresh electoral contest