Over 500,000 Sign Petition to Shut Down French News Channel CNews

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CNews, the French 24-hour news channel.

A petition calling for the closure of French news channel CNews has passed 500,000 signatures, bringing a dispute over media responsibility closer to parliament.

Launched in June, the petition accuses the broadcaster, owned by billionaire Vincent Bolloré, of spreading divisive messages. Support surged after a deadly attack near Paris reignited criticism of the channel's coverage of immigration and minorities.

CNews has described the initiative as a political petition.

Yet the threshold does not mean the channel will be shut down. A parliamentary committee must first decide whether to examine the petition, and a debate in the National Assembly is not guaranteed. Any decision on CNews's broadcasting licence would require a separate regulatory process.

The dispute raises a broader question for France: how should authorities respond to accusations of biased coverage while protecting freedom of

expression? With the 2027 presidential election approaching, the argument over the media's political influence is unlikely to fade.