

The rule of law and the far-right

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:07 pm

The far-right is not happy about Marine Le Pen being found guilty of embezzlement yesterday. As the [Guardian notes](#):

Overnight, US president Donald Trump joined a growing list of populist and far-right leaders – including Hungary’s Viktor Orbán, Italy’s Matteo Salvini, and the Netherlands’ Geert Wilders – offering their support to Le Pen, saying it was “a very big deal.”

“I know all about it, and a lot of people thought she wasn’t going to be convicted of anything,” he said.

Elon Musk, Tesla’s billionaire owner, who has backed the far right in Germany and plays a major role in Trump’s administration, said the sentence against Le Pen would “backfire, like the legal attacks against president Trump”.

And this morning, Le Pen’s close party ally and potential presidential candidate if she remains banned, National Rally president **Jordan Bardella** continued in the same vein, loyally declaring his continuing support for Le Pen.

Isn’t it strange how relaxed the far-right are about mis-spent government money when they are the beneficiaries? Am I alone in noting just a hint of hypocrisy here?

More importantly, the question is why should they tolerate a failure of the rule of law, which is what they are demanding? If we do not have the rule of law, we cannot have democracy. Is that why they are so excited about this case? Might it be that democracy is not on their bucket list?