



Press Update

Welcome to the weekly press briefing of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, where we aim to provide journalists with an update on the latest developments at the court, and the opportunity to ask questions.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi on the alleged illegal influencing of witnesses, closing statements are scheduled to take place on 10, 11 and 14 September 2026, with hearings starting at 9:30 on all three days.

On 20 August, the Single Judge granted requests from Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi to attend the closing statements via video conference.

During closing statements, the parties summarize their arguments, and may refer to admitted evidence and its reliability, the credibility of witnesses, the record of the proceedings and to the applicable law. Under the rules, the Specialist Prosecutor delivers their closing statement first, followed by Defence Counsel. After this the parties have the right to respond to one another, and the accused have the right to speak last. After the closing statements, the Trial Judge closes the case.

The closing statements will be public and can be followed in Albanian, English or Serbian through the streaming page of the KSC website with a 45-minute delay, or from the public gallery at the premises of the court.

Confirmation emails have been sent to all those who pre-registered to attend the closing statements. Anybody who received a confirmation, please make sure you bring a valid ID and journalists should also bring their press cards to present at the entrance.

In the case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment is scheduled to take place on 16 September 2026, starting at 10:00.

The process of sending emails to all those who applied to attend the hearing in-person at the Specialist Chambers has been completed.

In addition to the public gallery where space is limited, the KSC will accommodate media in the court's Press Briefing Room and Media Centre. The Press Briefing Room will be turned into a dedicated space where journalists can follow the hearing on screens with a 10-minute delay. In the media centre, a dedicated workspace for media, journalists can record the live feed of the trial and work on their articles.

To those who cannot be accommodated at the premises on that day, we ask for your understanding, as interest in following this hearing was exceptionally high, space was limited, and there was a need to prioritise close family members. The hearing will be broadcast through the streaming page of the website, where it can be viewed anywhere in the world in Albanian, English or Serbian with a short, 10-minute delay.

