



## 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.

Closing statements in the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi on the alleged illegal influencing of witnesses started today and will continue tomorrow, 11 September, and on Monday, 14 September 2026.

The Single Trial Judge on 7 September issued a scheduling order, wherein he allocated three hours for the closing statements of the Specialist Prosecutor's Office, two hours to the Thaçi Defence, 1.5 hours to the Smakaj Defence, two hours to each of the Defence teams of Mr. Kilaj and Mr. Fazliu and 45 minutes to the Defence of Mr. Kuçi.

The Specialist Prosecutor's Office's response to the closing statements of the Defence teams may last up to one hour, the response by the Thaçi Defence 30 minutes and the responses by the Defence of Mr. Smakaj, Mr. Kilaj, Mr. Fazliu and Mr. Kuçi 15 minutes each. The Single Trial Judge may pose questions at any time during the closing statements.

The Single Trial Judge ordered that the hearings start at 9:30 in the morning and may last until 5:15 in the afternoon.

Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi are attending the closing statements via video conference per their requests as granted by the Single Trial Judge.

The closing statements are 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. Pre-registration was required to follow from the premises in The Hague.

After the closing statements, the Single Trial Judge closes the case and thereafter has 90 days for his deliberations.

The pronouncement of the trial judgment in the case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi is scheduled to take place on 16 September 2026, starting at 10:00 in the morning.

We ask those who cannot be accommodated at the premises on that day for their 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. The Specialist Chambers will also

1





provide links to alternative streaming sites on its live update on the website and through an additional media advisory that will be distributed at the beginning of next week. This is a precautionary measure to ensure that anybody who would like to follow the hearing will be able to do so.

