



## 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 *Thaçi et al* case, the Trial Panel held a trial preparation conference on 18 January during which various issues related to the management of proceedings were discussed with the parties in an aim to expeditiously prepare for the trial.

At the end of the hearing, the Trial Panel indicated that it intends for the trial to start on 1 March 2023. The trial will start with the opening statements of the parties and Victims' Counsel. The Defence may choose if they wish to give their opening statements at the beginning of the trial or after the SPO has closed their case.

Today, upon further consultations with the parties and the participants, the Trial Panel amended its previous oral order and scheduled the Specialist Prosecutor's Preparation Conference in the *Thaçi et al.* case for 15 February 2023 at 09:30.

The Panel has ordered the SPO to provide a revised estimate of the length of its case at that conference and to present measures they have taken to shorten their case.

In the same case, the Panel on 17 January, in separate decisions, ordered the continued detention of Mr. Rexhep Selimi and Mr. Jakup Krasniqi. As part of the bi-monthly detention reviews, the Trial Panel found for both accused that the risk that they may obstruct the proceedings and/or commit further crimes continues to exist and that this risk can only be sufficiently mitigated through the communication monitoring framework at the KSC detention facilities.

In the case of Mr. Hysni Gucati and Mr. Nasim Haradinaj, the Appeals Panel announced that it will pronounce the appeal judgment on 2 February 2023 at 14:00. The hearing can be followed in all three languages of the court through the streaming function on the KSC website with a short delay or from the KSC's public gallery. Please note that pre-registration is required to follow this hearing from the public gallery. More information is available on the KSC website.

In the same case, the Appeals Panel on 16 January denied a request by Mr. Haradinaj for an order to the SPO to disclose certain evidence the Defence considered relevant to further investigations, which the Prosecution says it does not have. In their decision, the Judges found that the Defence did not show any indication that the Prosecution possessed such material.

### Journalist Questions

No questions asked.

