

Weekly Press Briefing Chambers and Registry N°27/2022 The Hague, 14/07/2022

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 accordance with the 1 July order of the Court of Appeals Panel, Mr Gucati and Mr Haradinaj re-filed their notices of appeal against the trial judgment.

In the case of Mr Thaçi and his co-accused, the Appeals Panel on 12 July 2022 denied Mr Thaçi's appeal against the Pre-Trial Judge's decision granting the SPO's request to amend its list of exhibits to be used as evidence during the trial.

In his appeal, Mr Thaçi argued, among other things, that the Pre-Trial Judge failed to give sufficient consideration to the fact that the evidence added to the SPO's exhibit lists at such a late stage would negatively impact the Defence' ability to prepare for trial within a reasonable time. Mr Thaçi submitted that the Pre-Trial Judge failed to consider that the files of the witnesses already reviewed would have to be considered again, since the additional material added by the SPO includes witnesses for whom statements and associated exhibits have already been disclosed.

The Court of Appeals Panel found that the Pre-Trial Judge adequately considered Mr Thaçi's arguments and determined that the added material concerned witnesses already known to the Defence. Accordingly, the amended exhibit list did not necessarily impact or delay trial preparations, including because the Defence had only just started their own investigations.

The Panel observed that the further materials were already disclosed to the Defence on 31 January 2022 as ordered by the Pre-Trial Judge and that the Pre-Trial Judge warned the SPO that given the expiration of this deadline, any further requests for amendments to the exhibit list will be subject to greater scrutiny.



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Also in this case, the Pre-Trial Judge held a status conference yesterday, during which the disclosure process as well as other organizational matters concerning the progress of proceedings were discussed. At the end of the hearing, the Pre-Trial Judge, among other things, ordered the SPO to file a witness list by 2 September 2022 that updates the mode of questioning and presentation time for each witness they intend to call.

The Pre-Trial Judge also suggested 8 September 2022 as the date for the next status conference in this case.

Journalist QuestionsNo questions asked.



