



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.

Tentative hearing dates have been scheduled for 17, 18 and 19 August 2026 in the case of Hashim Thaçi Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi, on the basis of a provisional request by one of the parties for the hearing of a witness.

The Single Trial Judge on 8 July issued a new order on the further conduct of proceedings asking the parties to notify the court by latest 15 July whether they intend to present any additional evidence in response to the recently admitted evidence of a witness.

Concerning the pronouncement of the verdict in the *Thaçi et al.* case related to war crimes and crimes against humanity that is scheduled on 16 September, I would like to remind the media and the public, that the deadline to apply to attend the pronouncement of the verdict from the public gallery in The Hague is tomorrow, 24 July. Due to the high demand, requests for registration after the deadline are not possible.

I would also like to highlight that only those who receive a confirmation email will be permitted to attend the hearing from the public gallery.

I would like to ask all those whose registration we cannot confirm for their understanding as space on the public gallery is limited and the demand has been very high. Please be reminded that the hearing can also be followed through the streaming function on the Specialist Chambers website in the three languages of the court, Albanian, Serbian and English.

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers continues with the publication of a series of videos which address frequently asked questions about the court and its work. The videos can be accessed in Albanian, Serbian, or English on the website as well as on the Specialist Chambers' YouTube, X, and Instagram channels.

The court recess this summer starts next Monday, on 27 July. During this period, no hearings and no press briefings will take place, but the court's other activities will continue without interruption. The next press briefing is therefore scheduled on Thursday, 20 August at 14:30 in the afternoon.

