



Press Update

Welcome to the 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, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, next Monday, 15 September, the Defence of Hashim Thaçi will start with the presentation of its case and the calling of witnesses. The hearing is expected to be mostly in public session. It will begin at 9:00 and can be followed online in the three languages of the court, Albanian, Serbian and English, via the [streaming function on the KSC website](#), with a 45-minute delay.

Due to the high interest in attending the hearing, pre-registration was required to attend the hearing from the public gallery at the premises in The Hague. Pre-registration is now closed. Anyone who requested pre-registration for the hearing and has not received a response yet, should expect a response today or tomorrow. Considering the high demand and the limited seating in the public gallery, we ask for understanding that we cannot confirm attendance from the public gallery for all who asked for it. Priority was given to friends and family of the accused as well as to media with an emphasis on the Kosovo media.

In the same case, on 9 September 2025, the Trial Panel admitted into evidence a number of expert reports submitted by Victims' Counsel and an exhibit submitted by the Defence. The judges denied admission of an additional exhibit whose admission was sought by the Defence. When asked about this exhibit in cross-examination the witness could not provide any context to it, so the Panel found it was not relevant to the testimony.

On 8 September 2025, the Trial Panel denied a request by the Selimi Defence to put in place certain safeguards during the cross-examination of witnesses called by other Defence teams. These included limiting the substance of cross-examination and prohibiting the parties from eliciting evidence during cross examination connected to the acts and conduct of an accused who had not called that witness.

In its decision, the Trial Panel explained that the permissible scope and limits of cross-examination are already set out in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and in the Trial Panel's Order on the Conduct of Proceedings. Parties may cross-examine witnesses on the subject matter of the direct examination and the credibility of the witness and are generally authorised to cross-examine a witness on matters related to their own case, provided that the witness is able to give evidence relevant to the case.

The Trial Panel indicated that it was mindful of the concerns raised by the Selimi Defence, but that it would be premature and speculative at this stage for the Trial Panel to introduce additional limitations, since there is still no indication of what evidence the prosecution might intend to elicit or offer for admission from any of the Defence witnesses, nor is there information on the lines of questioning to be followed by the prosecution. The Trial Panel therefore indicated that it would address any such concerns if and when an





objection is raised to a question thought to be impermissible by the objecting Party either at the time of questioning or in accordance with the procedure laid out in the Order on the Conduct of Proceedings.

In the same case, on 10 September, the Trial Panel granted a request from the Thaci Defence to add the statement of a witness to its exhibit list.

