



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEÇA KOSOVA

File number: KSC-CC-2026-32

Before: **The Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court**

Judge Vidar Stensland, Presiding

Judge Roumen Nenkov

Judge Piotr Hofmański

Registrar: Fidelma Donlon

Date: 31 March 2026

Language: English

Classification: Public

**Decision on Pjetër Shala's Request for an Extension of Time to File a Referral to
the Constitutional Court**

Specialist Counsel for Pjetër Shala

Jean-Louis Gilissen

Hédi Aouini

Specialist Prosecutor

Kimberly P. West

1. On 24 March 2026, Mr Pjetër Shala (“Mr Shala”) filed a request to the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court (“Chamber”), seeking an extension of the time limit to lodge a referral before the Chamber, the deadline for which is 11 March 2026 (“Request”).¹ Mr Shala is represented by Mr Jean-Louis Gillisen and Mr Hédi Aouini (“Specialist Counsel”).

2. On 25 March 2026, the President of the Specialist Chambers (“SC”) assigned the above Panel to rule on the Request pursuant to Article 33(3) of the Law.²

3. Mr Shala submits that good cause exists for the requested extension, namely that: (i) Specialist Counsel must concurrently prepare the anticipated referral and another legally significant filing due on 29 April 2026, both of which require substantial time and resources;³ (ii) the Albanian translation of the impugned decision, which will only be available towards the end of March 2026, is required to enable consultations with Mr Shala regarding the intended referral;⁴ and (iii) official holidays observed by the SC effectively reduce the time and resources available for preparing the referral.⁵ As such, Mr Shala requests an extension of thirty-five (35) days to file his referral before the Chamber, namely until 15 June 2026.⁶

4. Turning to the Request, the Chamber observes that, pursuant to Rule 20(1)(b) of the Rules of Procedure for the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court (“SCCC Rules”), referrals by authorised individuals must be filed within two (2) months from the date of the notification of the final ruling concerning the alleged violation. In this regard, the Chamber further notes that, pursuant to Rule 6(4)(a) of the SCCC Rules, it

¹ KSC-CC-2026-32, F00001, Defence request for an extension of time to file a referral to the Constitutional Court, public, 24 March 2026.

² KSC-CC-2026-32, F00002/COR, Corrected version of decision to assign judges to a Constitutional Court Panel, public, 30 March 2026 (the original filed on 25 March 2026).

³ Request, paras 3-4, 7.

⁴ Request, paras 5, 7.

⁵ Request, paras 6-7.

⁶ Request, paras 1, 8.

may, *proprio motu* or on a showing of good cause, extend any time limit prescribed by the SCCC Rules or set by the Panel.

5. Having carefully considered the reasons advanced in the Request, the Chamber deems it appropriate to extend the time limit prescribed by Rule 20(1)(b) of the SCCC Rules. However, in view of the nature of the proceedings before the Chamber, which are primarily concerned with assessing alleged violations of individual rights rather than reviewing the findings of the criminal chambers in terms of facts or law,⁷ and seeing that Specialist Counsel have represented Mr Shala throughout the entirety of the criminal proceedings and are thus familiar with the issues intended to be raised, the Chamber finds that a three (3)-week extension is sufficient for the preparation of Mr Shala's referral.

6. In light of the above, the Chamber extends the time limit for Mr Shala to file his referral to 1 June 2026.

FOR THESE REASONS,

The Constitutional Court Panel

Grants, in part, the Request, and *extends* the time limit for Mr Shala to make his referral to **1 June 2026**.



Judge Vidar Stensland
Presiding Judge

Done in English on Tuesday, 31 March 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands

⁷ See, for example, KSC-CC-2025-31, Decision on the referral of Hashim Thaçi to the Constitutional Court Panel concerning fundamental rights, public, 5 February 2026, para. 44, with further references to case law.