



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEÇA KOSOVA

In: KSC-BC-2020-06
**The Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi,
and Jakup Krasniqi**

Before: Pre-Trial Judge
Judge Nicolas Guillou

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Date: 14 May 2021

Language: English

Classification: Public

Decision on Veseli Defence Request for a Time Limit Variation

Specialist Prosecutor
Jack Smith

Counsel for Victims
Simon Laws

Counsel for Hashim Thaçi
David Hooper

Counsel for Kadri Veseli
Ben Emmerson

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi
David Young

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi
Venkateswari Alagenda

THE PRE-TRIAL JUDGE,¹ pursuant to Article 39(1) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, and Rules 9(5)(a) and (6) and 97(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers ("Rules"), hereby renders this decision.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND AND SUBMISSIONS

1. On 24 March 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge ordered the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("SPO") to provide its responses to the preliminary motions filed by the Defence pursuant to Rule 97(1) of the Rules by Friday, 23 April 2021, and the Defence to provide any replies to the SPO's responses by Friday, 14 May 2021.²

2. On 12 May 2021, the Defence for Kadri Veseli ("Veseli Defence") filed a request to vary the time limit so as to provide its reply to the SPO's responses by Monday, 17 May 2021, at 11:00 hours CET ("Veseli Request"), on the basis that two official holidays precede the 14 May 2021 time limit and that a state of emergency in co-counsel's country of residence is hampering his ability to work.³

II. APPLICABLE LAW

3. Pursuant to Rule 9(5)(a) of the Rules, the Pre-Trial Judge may, upon showing of good cause, extend any time limit that he has set.

4. Pursuant to Rule 9(6) of the Rules, where no prejudice is caused to the opposing Party, a motion for variation of a time limit may be disposed of without giving the opposing Party the opportunity to be heard.

¹ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00001, President, *Decision Assigning a Pre-Trial Judge*, 23 April 2020, public.

² KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript, 24 March 2021, page 391, lines 10-17.

³ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00290, Defence for Mr Veseli, *Veseli Defence Request for a Time Limit Variation*, 12 May 2021, public, paras 3, 6.

III. DISCUSSION

5. Whereas the Veseli Defence either knew or should have known that two official holidays precede the 14 May 2021 time limit, the Pre-Trial Judge considers that good cause has been shown for the requested variation on the basis that the state of emergency in co-counsel's country of residence is hampering his ability to work. In this regard, the Pre-Trial Judge has further taken into account that the requested variation is limited and that, in *inter partes* consultations, the SPO has indicated that it does not oppose the Veseli Request "in the spirit of comity".⁴

IV. DISPOSITION

6. For the above-mentioned reasons, the Pre-Trial Judge hereby:

- a. **GRANTS** the Veseli Request; and
- b. **ORDERS** Mr Veseli to provide his reply to the SPO's responses to the preliminary motions filed by the Defence pursuant to Rule 97(1) of the Rules by **Monday, 17 May 2021, at 11:00 hours CET**.



Judge Nicolas Guillou
Pre-Trial Judge

Dated this Friday, 14 May 2021
At The Hague, the Netherlands

⁴ Veseli Request, para. 4.