

Paris attacks suspect tells trial he's an Islamic State soldier

[Earlier defence lawyers](#) all quit because of Abdeslam's reluctance to communicate with them.

Sven Mary, his former counsel in Belgium, said: 'He has the intelligence of an empty ashtray. He's extraordinarily vacuous.' Mr Mary added: 'I asked him if he had read the Koran, and he replied that he had researched it on the Internet'.

Most of the accused face life imprisonment if convicted. The other suspects are accused of helping to provide guns and cars or playing a role in organising the attacks.

The first days of the trial are expected to be largely procedural, with plaintiffs being registered, though judges may read a summary of how the attacks unfolded. _

Matthieu Chirez, a lawyer for 21 Bataclan survivors from the UK and Ireland, said the trial, which is scheduled to last for nine months, would be 'a search for the truth'.

Victims' testimonies are set to start on Sept.28, with one week devoted to the attacks on the Stade de France and cafes, and four to the Bataclan.

The questioning of the accused will start in November but they are not set to be questioned on the night of the attacks and the week before them until March.

A verdict is expected in late May.