



# 26th Symi Symposium

*Step into the Future*

"Prometheus Unbound: Power re-imagined for a Demos of Peace, Equity & Sustainability"

Samos, 29 June – 3 July 2024







SymiSymposium



## **A Progressive Network of Innovative Leaders**

### ***A Symposium for the Ideas of the Future***

**The Symi Symposium 2024** offers a unique opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions amidst the stunning backdrop of Greece and Turkey.

From **June 29th** to **July 3rd, 2024**, we invite participants to embark on a journey of exploration, focusing on the reclamation and innovative utilization of power for the betterment of society, with a keen emphasis on peace, equity, and sustainability.

- **Confronting Global Crises:** Our symposium is dedicated to addressing the most urgent global challenges, including climate change, pandemic preparedness, and the unregulated advancements in AI and technology. Participants will engage in discussions aimed at crafting comprehensive solutions to these pressing issues.
- **Redefining Democracy:** Through critical analysis, we aim to dissect the current state of democracy worldwide. Topics include the rise of extreme demagoguery, the transformation of traditional political structures, and the role of social media in shaping public discourse. Join us in exploring avenues for revitalizing democratic principles and combating corruption and inequities.



- **Navigating Conflicts in Search of Peace:** Delve into innovative approaches to conflict resolution, considering the impact of climate change and technology on the nature of conflicts. From ongoing geopolitical tensions to localized disputes, our discussions will explore pathways towards sustainable peace, utilizing conflict as a catalyst for positive change.
- **Fostering Innovative Paths Forward:** Beyond dialogue, our symposium is committed to actionable solutions. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the formulation of groundbreaking strategies aimed at fostering positive societal change. Join us in transforming ideas into tangible actions, making this symposium a workshop for change-makers.







The Symi Symposium stands as more than just an annual event; it serves as a beacon of change and progress.

With 26 years of groundbreaking dialogue and collaboration, we have not only influenced significant policy initiatives but also fostered enduring cross-cultural networks and partnerships.

Throughout our history, luminaries from various fields have graced our symposia, not only actively engaging in discussions but also providing invaluable mentorship to emerging young leaders. This tradition of leadership mentorship has become a cornerstone of our ongoing efforts, nurturing the next generation of change-makers.

As we commemorate a milestone anniversary, this year's Symposium will delve into the multifaceted challenges and opportunities shaping our world and democratic societies.

From pressing issues such as energy security and the climate crisis to the transformative impact of AI in our daily lives, and from the dynamics of elections to the evolving geopolitical landscape, our discussions will span a wide spectrum of topics crucial to understanding and addressing contemporary global affairs.



# About Symi

The Symi Symposium is an annual gathering of global thinkers following the tradition of Ancient Greek philosophers.

The Symi Symposium, which has been led since its inception by the former Greek Prime Minister, George A. Papandreou, brings together leading intellectuals, politicians, Nobel laureates, entrepreneurs, diplomats, scientists, and activists to discuss some of the most important issues of our times.

It was first held in 1998 on the island of Symi, which has lent its name to the annual gatherings of likeminded individuals from different backgrounds. "Symi" is meant to initiate and nurture spirited deliberation in a discreet setting, while giving participants the opportunity to learn from each other in a more personal and substantive way than is usually possible. The overarching ambition of this initiative is to foster ideas that help make our societies more equitable, more responsive to the needs of citizens, and better equipped to overcome global challenges..





The Symi Family

# past Participants

In Alphabetical Order



**Fung Archon**

Author of “Empowered Participation: Reinventing Urban Democracy”



**Catherine Ashton**

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (2009-2014)



**Roger Brown**

President, Berklee College of Music



**Bill Clinton**

US President (1993-2001)



**Kemal Dervis**

Head of UNDP (2005-2009)



**Turakhia Divyank**

Founder and CEO, Media Net



**Joshka Fischer**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chancellor of Germany (1998-2005)



**Misha Glenny**

Author of “McMafia”, Duncan Clark, author of “Alibaba, the House that Jack Ma built”



**Antonio Guterres**

Secretary General of the United Nations (2017-)



**Ron Heifetz**

Founding Director, Center of Public Leadership, JFK School of Government, Harvard University



**Thomas Ilves**

President of Estonia (2006-2016)





The Symi Family

# past Participants

In Alphabetical Order



**Bianca Jagger**

Council of Europe Goodwill  
Ambassador



**Mary Kaldor**

Professor of Global  
Governance, LSE



**Tawfik Khouri**

Executive Vice Chairman  
CC



**Ed Milliband**

MP, leader of the British  
Labour Party (2010-2015)



**Valerie Mosley**

Chairwoman Valmo  
Ventures



**Amr Moussa**

Secretary General of the  
Arab League (2001-2011)



**Kumi Naidoo**

Executive Director of  
Greenpeace (2009-2015),  
Secretary General of  
Amnesty International



**Cem Ozdemir**

MP, co-chair of the German  
Green Party (2008-2018)



**Haris Pasovic**

Director, East-West  
Company, Sarajevo



**Romain Peugeot**

Founding Partner Newlion  
Capital Partners



**Edi Rama**

Prime Minister of Albania  
(2013-)





The Symi Family

# past Participants

In Alphabetical Order



**Segolene Royal**

French Presidential Candidate,  
Minister of Energy and Ecology (2014-2017)



**Radmilla Sekerinska**

Minister of Defense of North Macedonia



**Amartya Sen**

Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics



**Joseph Stiglitz**

Recipient of Nobel Prize in Economics



**Rim Turkmani**

Researcher on the War Economy in Syria



**Amira Yahyaoui**

Tunisian blogger & political activist



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## The originality of the Symi Symposium consists in:

### **The special blend of participants:**

Opinion leaders, decision makers, intellectuals, entrepreneurs, and academics from very different backgrounds have the opportunity to meet, exchange experiences and inter-act as part of a very exclusive network.

### **Symi “eco-system” itself serves to inspire:**

The co-existence of regular Symi members with newcomers creates a very relaxed and comfortable atmosphere that facilitates creative brain storming in a short period of time.

### **The Ancient Greek interactive culture:**

The concept of a Symposium, with off-the-record deliberations that go beyond the formal working sessions and continues throughout the day and into the evening, the walks and cultural activities enables a spirit of deeper dialogue.

### **Shared Values:**

Symi network is not only a network of excellence in terms of each member’s achievements. It is a network of personalities who take seriously the issue social responsibility, human rights, freedom, democratic accountability, justice and solidarity.

### **The Space for Truce:**

The relaxed and secluded environment of the Symi Symposium is unique for conflict resolution meetings.







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[www.symisymposium.org](http://www.symisymposium.org)

