

THE FIFTH SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

September 30th & October 1st 2021
Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Kavouri, Athens



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With special thanks to **Nectaria Passarivakis**, President & CEO The Economist Events for Greece, Cyprus, Malta and South-East Europe, **The Economist Events** in partnership with [SDSN Europe](#), [SDSN Greece](#) and [EIT Climate- KIC Hub Greece](#) organized the [Fifth Sustainability Summit for south-east Europe and the Mediterranean](#) on September 30th & October 1st 2021, which took place at Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Kavouri, Athens.

For yet another year, there has been participation of Prominent international business and finance leaders along with cabinet ministers, academics and Nobel laureates from around the world.

H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic **Katerina Sakellaropoulou** made the Official inauguration and **Ursula von der Leyen**, president of the European Commission gave the keynote opening address titled “Working together to make Europe Climate- Neutral by 2050”.

[Professor Andreas Papandreou](#), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, co-chair of UN SDSN Greece and [Alasdair Ross](#), Countries Editor at The Economist - The World In, introduced the Summit and welcomed the audience and the prestigious speakers gathered to share their vision and their experience related to sustainable development. You may watch the opening remarks [here](#). Following the opening remarks Prof. **Jeffrey Sachs**, director, Global SDSN Leadership Council, director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University gave a speech on “climate crisis: keeping it a top priority”. You may watch his speech [here](#).

[Professor Phoebe Koundouri](#), director, [ReSEES laboratory](#), Athens University of Economics and Business, director [SDU](#) ATHENA RC, co-chair [SDSN Europe](#) &



[Greece](#), together with **Professor Jeffrey Sachs**, director, Global SDSN Leadership Council, director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University, opened the second day of the Summit with the announcement of the new UN SDSN initiative: the Athens Climate Hub. Watch the opening remarks [here](#).



Professor Koundouri participated and gave a speech in the session *“HOW IS THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 LINKED TO THE SDGs?”* together with **Aaron Farrugia**, minister for the environment, climate change and planning, Malta and **Angelo Riccaboni**, chair, PRIMA Foundation, chair, SDSN Mediterranean, professor, University of Siena. **Watch the session [here](#).**

Prof. Koundouri co-chaired together with **Alasdair Ross** the discussion on *“THE FUTURE EUROPE WANTS: A GREEN AND DIGITAL, JOB-BASED AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC”*

Speakers:

- **Kostas Skrekas**, minister of Environment and Energy, Greece
- **Geoffrey Pyatt**, US ambassador to the Hellenic Republic
- **Udo Bullmann**, member, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, European Parliament
- **Alexandra Mitsotaki**, president & co-founder, World Human Forum
- **Constantinos Cartalis**, professor, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, head, diaNEOSis research on Climate Change in Greece

Watch the session on YouTube [here](#).



Prof. Andreas Papandreou chaired the discussion on *“OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND BLUE GROWTH: OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES IN THE PANDEMIC ERA”*

Speakers:

Ioannis Plakiotakis, minister of maritime and island policy, Greece

Maria Damanaki, special adviser for SYSTEMIQ and Paradise Foundation, former commissioner, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Commentator: **Olga Stavropoulou**, director-general, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)

Watch the discussion [here](#).



Prof. Koundouri also chaired the discussion on *“GREEN FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY”*.

Speakers:

- **Marcello Ranucci**, coordinator of the G20 finance track green agenda, 2021 G20 Italian Presidency, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy (viaconnection)
- **Stefan Brunnhuber**, programme director, World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS) Expert Group on Innovative Financial Strategies
- **Eleftherios Kritikos**, president, Edekt Asset Management, deputy governor, e-EFKA (National Social Security Fund)

Commentator: **Nikitas Pittis**, chief economist, AssetWise Capital Management

Watch the discussion [here](#)



Prof. Andreas Papandreou also chaired the discussion on “2020: *‘THE YEAR OF THE QUIET OCEAN’*”

Speakers:

Drosos Koutsoubas, professor of marine biology, head of the department of marine sciences, University of the Aegean, head, National Marine Park of Zakynthos

Nikolaos Skliris, senior research fellow for ocean and earth science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton, University of Southampton

Watch the discussion [here](#).



On the second day of the Summit, **Prof. Koundouri** chaired the discussion on “*SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT*”

Speakers:

Maria Papadopoulou, professor, NTUA, president, management board, Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, Ministry of Environment & Energy, member, National Water Council

Panagiotis Nastos, director of the Laboratory of Climatology and Atmospheric Environment, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, president of the Hellenic Meteorological Society

Harry Sachinis, chief executive officer, EYDAP

Nikos Charalambides, executive director, Greenpeace Greece

• Case study:

Yiannis Georgakellos, communications & corporate affairs director, Athenian Brewery

Watch the session [here](#).



Prof. Panandreu chaired the discussion on “**SUSTAINABLE CITIES AFTER THE COVID-19 ERA**”

Speakers:

Dimitris Papastergiou, president, Union of Mayors of Greece (KEDE), mayor of Trikala

Kostas Bakoyannis, mayor of Athens

Ekrem Imamoğlu, mayor of Istanbul

George Papandreou, president, Socialist International, former prime minister of Greece, member, Global SDSN Leadership (video)

• **The business perspective**

George Tsaprounis, corporate affairs executive director, WIND Hellas

Commentator: **Marnie McGregor**, head of communications & strategic partnerships, global covenant of mayors for climate & energy (GCoM)

Watch the discussion [here](#).



Watch the first day of the Summit [here](#)

Watch the second day of the Summit [here](#).

Learn more [here](#).