



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Social Cohesion  
and Family Affairs



## Programme

# WPL Summit 2024 - "Democracy for the 21st Century"

19-21 March, 2024, Athens

Updated: 21.03.2024

### Tuesday, 19 March

(All times indicated in EET)

#### 14:30 - 17:30 REGISTRATION & BADGE PICK UP

**Venue:** NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

*(Delegates registered to attend President's reception must pick up badge)*

**17:10 - 17:25** Bus shuttle service commences from NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

**18:00-19:30** Welcome Reception hosted by H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**

**Venue:** Presidential Mansion

Limited capacity, by invitation only. Dress Code: Strictly Formal.

**19:30** Bus shuttle service back to NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

### Wednesday, 20 March

Conference Languages: English, French, Spanish & ( Arabic - only in Parliament)

Lead Facilitator: **Anita Erskine**, CEO of Anita Erskine Media

(All times indicated in EET)

#### 08:30- 9:30 ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES & BADGE PICK UP

**Venue:** the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

#### 09:30-9:45 Opening of the WPL Summit

Welcome words by:

- **Olga Kefalogianni**, Minister of Tourism of Greece
- **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President & Founder, Women Political Leaders (WPL)
- **Obiageli Ezekwesili**, Chair of the WPL Board

**09:50 - 09:55 Video Message: Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

**10:00-10:45 Panel 1: Representation Matters: More Women to Power - More Power to Women**

Speakers:

- **Goedele Liekens**, Member of the Chamber of Representatives, Belgian Federal Parliament; WPL Country Ambassador
- **Rozaina Adam**, Member of Parliament, Peoples Majlis (Parliament of Maldives); WPL Country Ambassador
- **Simonida Kordić**, Member of Parliament, Montenegro
- **Tsitsi Gezi**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Parliament of Zimbabwe

Moderator: **Amanda Ellis**, ASU Wrigley Global Futures Lab, Former UN Ambassador and Lead Specialist Gender World Bank

**10:50 - 11:00 Keynote: Sahle-Work Zewde**, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**11:05-11:50 Panel 2: Politicians 2.0: Reinventing Leadership for the 21st Century**

Speakers:

- **Annita Demetriou**, President of the House of Representatives, Republic of Cyprus; WPL Country Ambassador
- **Fatimazhra Belhirsch**, Member of the Senate of the Netherlands
- **Olga Cebotari**, Member of the Executive Committee of the Moldovan Party of Socialists, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova for Reintegration
- **Louise O'Reilly**, Member of Parliament, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland

Moderator: **Athanasios Dimadis**, President, The Association of Foreign Press Correspondents in the USA (AFPC-USA)

**11:52 - 11:54 Video message: Kersti Kaljulaid**, President of Estonia (2016–2021); Global Advocate of the UN Secretary-General for Every Woman Every Child

**11:55 -12:40 Panel 3: Raising Voices, Lifting Barriers: Tackling Violence Against Women in Politics**

Speakers:

- **Elissavet Vozenberg-Vrionidi**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair FEMM Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (EPP, Greece)
- **Hafida Benchehida**, Founding Member of Arab women parliamentarians for Equality and Equity ; Former Senator, Vice-President of the Legal, Administrative and Human Rights Committee of the Senate, Algeria
- **Thorbjorg Sigrídur Gunnlaugsdóttir**, Member of Parliament of Iceland
- **Karla Yuritz Almazán Burgos**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico

Moderator: **Linda Robinson**, Senior Fellow for Women and Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations

**12:45 - 12:55 Keynote: Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

**13:00-14:00 Policy focus sessions** (Rooms 114, 214, 314, 714)  
Register [here](#).

**14:05-15:30** Lunch

**15:00 - 16:30** Optional bus tour around Athens city (pick-up/drop off point NJV Plaza Hotel - registration required)

**15.30-16:30** Time for bilateral meetings

**16:30-17.00** Transfer to the Acropolis Museum

**17:00** **Welcome by the Museum's General Director Prof. Nikolaos Stampolidis** followed by private guided tour of the Museum for the delegates

**18:10-18:15 Family photo** with **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

*Delegates directed to Pantheon room for the WPL Trailblazer Awards*

**18:30-18:50 WPL Trailblazer Awards Ceremony**

Facilitated & presented by: **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President of WPL

Awardee for 2024:

- **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

**18:35-18:45 Keynote Speech** by **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

**18:50** End of the WPL Trailblazer Awards Ceremony

**19:00** Reception at the Acropolis Museum restaurant

**20:00** Transfer to NJV Plaza Hotel commences

## Thursday, 21 March

Conference Languages: English, French, Spanish & (Arabic- only in Parliament)

Lead Facilitator: **Anita Erskine**, CEO of Anita Erskine Media

(All times indicated in EET)

**08:30-9:30 ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES & BADGE PICK UP**

**Venue:** NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

**09:32-09:34 Video message: Marie-Colline Leroy**, State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, Government of Belgium

**09:35-10:10 Panel 1: The Perilous Grip: How Political Parties Threaten Democracy**

Speakers:

- **Gabriela Crețu**, Senator, Senate of Romania
- **Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová**, Member of the European Parliament, (Independent, Slovakia)
- **Sarah Adwoa Safo**, Member of Parliament, Parliament of Ghana

- **Sofia Voultepsi**, Deputy Minister of Migration & Asylum of Greece, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Moderator: **Tania Bozaninou**, Senior Editor, To Vima newspaper

**10:15 - 10:20 Video Message: Mary Robinson**, Chair; Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice, Trinity College Dublin; President of Ireland (1990-1997)

**10:25-11:25 Policy focus sessions** (Rooms 114, 214, 314)

Register [here](#).

**11:35 - 11:36 Video message: Viviane Reding**, Vice-President of the European Commission (2010-2014), EU Commissioner (2000-2014), Member of National and European Parliaments (1979-2000, 2014-2023)

**11:37 - 11:39 Video message: Tarja Halonen**, President of Finland (2000-2012)

**11:40-12:15 Panel 2: Navigating the Nexus: AI, Democracy, and Political Leadership**

Speakers:

- **Maris Lauri**, Member of the Parliament of Estonia
- **Orit Farkash-Hacohen**, Member of the Knesset, Israel
- **Sahar Albazar**, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chair of the foreign affairs committee; WPL Country Ambassador, Egypt
- **Yanna Andronopoulou**, General Manager - Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Microsoft

Moderator: **Cheryl Novak**, Senior Editor, tovima.com – WSJ Publishing Partnership

**12:20-12:55 Panel 3: Democracy Reloaded: Fulfilling Citizen Expectations and Rebuilding Trust**

Speakers:

- **Cristina Gallach**, Member, GWL Voices
- **Eleanor Laing**, Deputy Speaker, House of Commons, UK
- **Glonalabad**, Member of the House of Representatives of Philippines
- **Lindiwe Thulile Dlamini** President of the Senate of Eswatini
- **Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur**, Member of the Senate of Pakistan



Moderator: **Liz Perkins**, Night News Editor, The Daily Express

**13:00 - 13:05 Keynote Speech: Olga Kefalogianni**, Minister of Tourism of Greece

**13:10 - 13:25 Closing Words:**

- **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President & Founder, Women Political Leaders (WPL)
- **Obiageli Ezekwesili**, Chair of the WPL Board

**13:30-14:30** Lunch

**14:50** Programme moves to the Hellenic Parliament (*on foot transfer*)

**15.00-15.10 Welcome and session opening remarks** by **Constantine An. Tassoulas**, President of the Hellenic Parliament

**15:00 - 16:15** Optional bus tour around Athens city (pick-up/drop off point NJV Plaza Hotel - registration required)

**15:15 - 18:00 National Delegation Statements**

Co-chaired by **Sevasti (Sevi) Voloudaki**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament; WPL Ambassador, Greece  
*For officially appointed delegates only.*

**17:00 - 18:00** Guided tour at the exhibition of the Hellenic Parliament "*Beholding Liberty! At the Hellenic Parliament two centuries later*" (*registration required*)

**18:00-18:10** Family photo

**18:10-19:30** Cocktails hosted by **Constantine An. Tassoulas**, President of the Hellenic Parliament (*registration required*)

**19:30** **End of the WPL Summit**