Moderating Monday’s meeting in Vienna of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, OSCE PA Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) underlined the importance of good governance and anti-corruption legislation as key for economic recovery and development.

Held in a hybrid format, the panel that Kugler moderated included Albanian Deputy Minister of Justice Adea Pirdeni; Laura Oana Stefan, Executive Director of the Expert Forum (Romania); Gretta Fenner, Managing Director at the Basel Institute on Governance (Switzerland); and Chandana Ravindranath, Director for Anticorruption at the National Security Council (United States).

Kugler highlighted the critical work the PA has carried out, in partnerships with the OSCE governmental structures and OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Vice-President Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), in strengthening good governance in promoting openness and good governance in the OSCE area.

The Joint Session of the three General Committees will take place on the afternoon the 24th, and will feature an address by CiO Rau. Also on the 24th, the First Committee will hold a debate on the theme Heightened Tensions in the OSCE Area and the Need for Interparliamentary Dialogue.

On 25 February, the OSCE PA’s Second and Third Committees will meet and hold debates on human trafficking and the role of journalism in promoting the rule of law. The general committee meetings will also provide opportunities for the committee rapporteurs to present their preliminary ideas for reports and draft resolutions being prepared for this year’s Annual Session in Birmingham, United Kingdom, and to hear feedback from OSCE parliamentarians.

Being held in a hybrid format due to the epidemiological situation, the in-person participation in Vienna will be restricted to members of the Standing Committee, Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees. Other OSCE PA Members will join online.