

# IETF 112 Madrid go/no-go assessment

This is the assessment of whether IETF 112 Madrid can go ahead as an in-person meeting or whether it will need to be replaced with some form of online meeting. It has been made by the IETF Executive Director assisted by the IETF Secretariat and local contacts. This assessment follows the published framework<sup>1</sup> that was developed by the IESG, IETF LLC and IRTF Chair.

## Recommendation

The recommendation is that **IETF 112 switch to a fully online meeting**. This is primarily the result of a high degree of uncertainty around the number of onsite participants and the adverse financial and facility impact of a significant drop in numbers from that originally budgeted for.

## Classification system

This assessment uses the following classification system for each criterion:

Assessment	Indicator	Count
Met	Green	16
Confident it will be met	Green	0
Not met	Red	1
Not confident it will be met	Red	2
Unable to assess / Not assessed	Grey	0

The decision to be made is whether we can be confident that the global situation will have improved sufficiently by November for the meeting to go ahead. Because of that approach, each criterion needs to meet a threshold of “met” or “confident it will be met” for it to be indicated as green. If the threshold is not met then it stays as red. There is no intermediate amber to express an uncertain but possible likelihood.

<sup>1</sup> [https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/admin-discuss/L5t8vXsvjEP\\_p2uujtgc1X30YE/](https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/admin-discuss/L5t8vXsvjEP_p2uujtgc1X30YE/)

## Assessment of individual criteria

### General background

Spain has recovered from its initial COVID crisis and now has the highest vaccination rate of any large country with 57% of the population fully vaccinated and 68% with at least one dose. The country is considered 'open' and increasingly returning to normal life while maintaining a few basic protective measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. However, globally the Delta variant is spreading rapidly and leading to the reintroduction of infection management controls in many nations.

### CRITERION: The IETF LLC is able to hold the meeting.

#	Test	Assessment	
1.1	Sufficient critical support staff and contractors can be at the venue and available remotely as needed	<p>The NOC and LLC can operate on expected reduced staff numbers. The Secretariat can operate on expected reduced numbers with the support of local contractors.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	
1.2	The meeting will not result in a significant unbudgeted financial loss for the IETF LLC	<p>The hotel has agreed to waive our contracted minimums. Global host sponsorship is unlikely due to corporate travel policies.</p> <p>We modelled the budget for two scenarios, both with 1000 paying participants. The first had 300 onsite and 7000 remote, the second was for 500 onsite and 500 remote. For both,</p>	

		<p>the fees for onsite were as before the pandemic and remote fees as they are for fully online meetings. The first scenario projects a loss of \$780k and the second a loss of \$540k. Neither includes any provision for extra costs associated with social distancing or infection control measures.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Not confident it will be met</p>	
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### CRITERION: The venue continues to meet mandatory criteria.

#	Test	Assessment	
2.1	All of the mandatory venue selection criteria from section 3.1 of RFC 8178 <sup>2</sup> can be met (space, access, network, etc)	<p>Provided that we have sufficient numbers of attendees then contracted space should remain available. If not then we may need to return space, which may prevent the normal number of sessions from going ahead.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Not confident it will be met</p>	
2.2	Any prohibitions on mass gatherings are only for events of more than 1250 people. (If this and only this criterion is not met then it may be possible to go ahead with fewer in-person participants than normal)	<p>There are no prohibitions on mass gatherings</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	

<sup>2</sup> <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc8178#section-3.1>

2.3	There are enough restaurants within the vicinity of the meeting hotels operating at sufficient capacity to serve our expected number of participants.	Local advice after speaking to multiple restaurants is that there is sufficient capacity  ASSESSMENT: Met	
2.4	Local medical facilities capable of treating COVID-19 have sufficient capacity.	Local advice is that “restrictions are modulated so that hospitals always have capacity” and there is sufficient local capacity.  ASSESSMENT: Met	
2.5	Other similar international meetings (conferences) are confirmed as going ahead before or at the same time as our planned meeting.	There are a number of large international conferences going ahead in Madrid, generally as hybrid conferences <sup>3</sup> with one in a directly relevant field <sup>4</sup> .  ASSESSMENT: Met	

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.estro.org/Congresses/ESTRO-2021>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wholesalecongress.com/the-congress-wwc/>

**CRITERION: Economic, safety, and health risks associated with this Venue are acceptable.**

#	Test	Assessment	
3.1	Local assessment of the health and safety risk of travelling to the venue.	Spain has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world with 57% fully and 68% at least one dose <sup>5</sup> . Protective restrictions are in place regarding mask wearing and social distancing <sup>6</sup> . However Spain is in the midst of a fifth wave of infection that means that anyone unvaccinated is still at serious risk of infection.  ASSESSMENT Met	
3.2	Independent assessment of the health and safety risk of travelling to the venue.	The US CDC has a “Level 4: Avoid travel” notice for Spain <sup>7</sup> which then leads to the US State Dept having Spain at “Level 4: Do Not Travel” <sup>8</sup> . While some continue to challenge the use of these sources, the IETF LLC and Secretariat are US corporations and as such these notices have a material impact on insurance and legal liability.  ASSESSMENT: Not met	

<sup>5</sup> <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=ESP>

<sup>6</sup> <https://english.elpais.com/society/2021-06-25/where-will-and-wont-it-be-mandatory-to-wear-a-face-mask-in-spain-from-saturday.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-spain>

<sup>8</sup> <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/spain-travel-advisory.html>

3.3	Assessment of the health and safety risk of air travel in and of itself.	<p>The WHO continues to defer to IATA on the matter of the safety of air travel and IATA have finally produced evidence to support their view that air travel is low risk<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	
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**CRITERION:** Travel barriers to entry, including visa requirements, are likely to be such that an overwhelming majority of participants who wish to do so can attend. The term "travel barriers" is to be read broadly [...] in the context of whether a successful meeting can be had.

#	Test	Assessment	
4.1	Spanish borders are not closed to visitors	<p>Borders are closed from three countries on evidence based grounds, which total less than 1% of participants at IETF 111 (Brazil, Namibia, South Africa)<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.iata.org/en/youandiata/travelers/health/low-risk-transmission/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/spthRequisitosEntradaEspana/home.htm>

4.2	No form of quarantine or self-isolation on arrival in Spain	<p>Provided that Spanish requirements on vaccination proof or negative tests are met then there is no quarantine or vaccination.<sup>11</sup> Multiple countries are on the exemption list and so no vaccination proof or negative test is required.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	
4.3	No new form of health-related travel restriction imposed by Spain that is inherently discriminatory in nature.	<p>All travellers to Spain from countries not on the exemption list are required to either be vaccinated or have a clean test 1-3 days before travel, which appears to be a global standard and not discriminatory.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	

### Assessed on a per country basis

This section relies on publicly available information, translation tools and help from local contacts and so is less than comprehensive.

#	Test	Assessment	Percent	
4.4	Any form of quarantine on return affects less than 20% of expected participants	A few countries have quarantine requirements on return (e.g. New Zealand <sup>12</sup> , Australia, Thailand) but participation from those is low.	< 5%	

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/spth.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/international-travel-and-transit/travel-to-new-zealand/>

		ASSESSMENT: Met		
4.5	Any form of self-isolation requirement on return of more than 24 hours unless consistent with general self-isolation requirements, affects less than 20% of expected participants	Some countries have self-isolation requirements though they all appear to have plans for lifting those (e.g Canada <sup>13</sup> ).  ASSESSMENT: Met	< 5%	
4.6	Government travel bans in either direction, affects less than 20% of expected participants	The only bans that appear to be in place are those prohibiting people travelling from South Africa, Brazil and Namibia from entering Spain.  ASSESSMENT: Met	< 5%	

**CRITERION: Travel to the Venue is acceptable based on cost, time, and burden for participants traveling from multiple regions. It is anticipated that the burden borne will generally be shared over the course of multiple years.**

Assessed on a per country basis

Given the difficulty of collecting global data, assessment of the criteria in this section has been carried out in a lightweight manner by utilising flight comparison websites and searching for flights from the capital cities of the top 5 countries by percentage (China, Germany, UK, Canada, Japan based on IETF 111 attendance<sup>14</sup>) for travel to Spain in November, as well as by attempting to book travel insurance from a number of origin countries.

<sup>13</sup> <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

<sup>14</sup> <https://datatracker.ietf.org/stats/meeting/111/country/>



#	Test	Assessment	Percent	
5.1	Sufficient capacity of flight availability to Spain for at least 80% of expected participants.	Flight capacity has bounced back to between 55% and 80% of previous capacity (by region) <sup>15</sup> . ASSESSMENT: Met	>80%	
5.2	Fares within reasonable range for at least 80% of expected participants.	Flights advertised from the capital cities of the top 5 countries by percentage, appear to be at a reasonable price. ASSESSMENT: Met	>80%	
5.3	Travel insurance is available and for a reasonable price for at least 80% of expected participants	Insurance seems to be available at a reasonable price though without COVID-19 from a handful of the top 5 countries by percentage. A thorough check was not undertaken but in general the availability and cost appears to be reasonable ASSESSMENT: Met.	>80%	

## Summary

Of the 19 individual tests, all need to be assessed as “Met” or “Confident it will be met” for an in-person meeting to be held. 1 test has been assessed as “Not met”, 2 as “Not confident it will be met”.

<sup>15</sup> <https://centreforaviation.com/analysis/reports/european-airline-capacity-first-time-back-over-50-of-2019-566209>