

IETF 113 Vienna go/no-go assessment

This is the assessment of whether IETF 113 Vienna 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 in RFC 9137¹.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that **an in-person meeting go ahead** noting that this will be under special conditions and that one of the criteria has not been met.

Classification system

This assessment uses the following classification system for each criterion:

Assessment	Indicator	Count
Met	Green	13
Confident it will be met	Green	5
Not met	Red	1
Not confident it will be met	Red	
Unable to assess / Not assessed	Grey	

The decision to be made is whether we can be confident that the global situation will have improved sufficiently by March 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.

¹ <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9137>

Assessment of individual criteria

Special note

The IESG has determined the following, which impacts on this assessment:

- A level of onsite participation at 50% of a similar pre-COVID meeting is acceptable for a viable meeting. This is in the range of 500-650.
- Any specific regulations that adversely affect unvaccinated people are not to be considered discriminatory.

General background

Austria has some of the strictest rules globally regarding COVID mitigation and the risk posed by unvaccinated people. It has recently come out of a lockdown and has falling infection rates. However the effect of omicron has not yet been felt in Austria and conditions may change.

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	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. ASSESSMENT: Confident it will be met	
1.2	The meeting will not result in a significant unbudgeted financial loss for the IETF LLC	The hotel has agreed a contract with a strong force majeure clause and other cancellation clauses that the LLC deems an acceptable	

		loss if late cancellation is required, ASSESSMENT: Met	
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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 ² can be met (space, access, network, etc)	The contract is for our best estimate of onsite participants (500-650) and so we expect this to be met. ASSESSMENT: Met	
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)	The only prohibition on mass gatherings is for the unvaccinated. Otherwise, there are specific rules in place for mass gatherings ³ but these are not considered unworkable. ASSESSMENT: Met	
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 is that there is sufficient capacity. It is almost certain that unvaccinated people will not be able to enter restaurants and bars. However, it should be noted that the Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, while recognised for entry to the country are recognised for entry to restaurants.	

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

³ <https://www.vienna.convention.at/en/event-planning/covid-19/update-meetings-362408>

		ASSESSMENT: Confident it will be met	
2.4	Local medical facilities capable of treating COVID-19 have sufficient capacity.	Local advice is that the local medical services responded well during the earlier infection peaks and that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate visitors. ASSESSMENT: Confident it will be 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 scheduled international conferences ^{4 5} of a similar size to IETF 113 in the same general field. ASSESSMENT: Confident it will be met	

⁴ <https://10times.com/vienna-at/technology>

⁵ <https://www.vienna.convention.at/en/meeting-calendar?>

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.	Austria has implemented the 2G+ rule ⁶ intended to minimise the likelihood of infected people traveling (and thereby infecting other travellers). 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 Austria ⁷ which then leads to the US State Dept having Austria at “Level 4: Do Not Travel” ⁸ . ASSESSMENT: Not confident that it will be met	
3.3	Assessment of the health and safety risk of air travel in and of itself.	The WHO defer to IATA on the matter of the safety of air travel and IATA have produced evidence to support their view that air travel is low risk ⁹ .	

⁶ <https://www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts/coronavirus-information/entry-regulations>

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

⁸ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Austria.html>

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

	ASSESSMENT: Met	
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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	National borders are not closed to visitors	Borders are closed from a small number of countries on claimed evidence-based grounds, which total less than 1% of participants at IETF 112 ¹⁰ . ASSESSMENT: Confident it will be met	
4.2	No form of quarantine or self-isolation on arrival in Austria.	Quarantine is only required for unvaccinated people arriving in Austria and those arriving from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Suriname ¹¹ . This may change if Austria declares any European countries to be virus variant areas. ASSESSMENT: Met	

¹⁰ https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/coronavirus_in_oesterreich/pre-travel-clearance.html

¹¹ <https://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/corona-information/arrival-and-departure-388182>

4.3	No new form of health-related travel restriction imposed that is inherently discriminatory in nature.	There are restrictions on unvaccinated travellers but, as noted above , these are not considered discriminatory. The vaccines allows for entry to Austria are BioNtech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Covishield, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinovac, and Sinopharm ASSESSMENT: Met	
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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	By the time of IETF 113 most countries with quarantine requirements will have lifted them ¹² . ASSESSMENT: Met	< 5%	
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	Self-isolation requirements, where they exist, appear to only apply on return from specific countries of which Austria is not one ¹³ . ASSESSMENT: Met	< 5%	

¹² <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>

¹³ <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>

4.6	Government travel bans in either direction, affects less than 20% of expected participants	The only travel bans that appear to be in place are those prohibiting people travelling from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe. ASSESSMENT: Met	< 5%	
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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 112 attendance¹⁴) for travel to Spain in November, as well as by attempting to book travel insurance from a number of origin countries.

#	Test	Assessment	Percent	
5.1	Sufficient capacity of flight availability to Austria for at least 80% of expected participants.	Flight capacity has bounced back to between 60% and 75% of previous capacity (by region) ¹⁵ . ASSESSMENT: Met	>80%	

¹⁴ <https://datatracker.ietf.org/stats/meeting/112/country/>

¹⁵ <https://centreforaviation.com/analysis/reports/europe-international-led-airline-recovery-pauses-as-covid-cases-rise-587652>

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 coverage from a handful of the top 5 countries by percentage. A thorough check was not undertaken. 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”.