

IETF 108 Madrid go/no-go assessment

This is the assessment of whether IETF 108 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 in Madrid. This assessment follows the published framework¹ that was developed by the IESG, IETF LLC and IRTF Chair.

Recommendation

As set out below, all the required conditions for an in-person meeting have not been met and so the recommendation is that the in-person IETF 108 Madrid meeting should be replaced with an online meeting.

Classification system

This assessment uses the following classification system for each criterion:

Assessment	Indicator
Met	Green
Confident that it will be met	Green
Not met	Red
Not confident that it will be met	Red
Unable to assess	Grey

The key point to note is that an in-person meeting could clearly not be held today and so the decision to be made is whether we can be confident that it will have improved sufficiently by late July for it to go ahead. Because of that approach, each criterion needs to meet a threshold of “met” or “we are 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.ietf.org/how/meetings/108/assessment-framework-person-vs-online-ietf-108-meeting/>

Assessment of individual criteria

General background

The Spanish government has announced a de-escalation plan² which will be implemented in phases³ with a target end date of the end of June and the aim of then reaching a “new normal”. However there are significant omissions and dependencies that mean we cannot assume this plan is sufficient. As explained by our local contacts, the current “state of alarm” that gives the government special powers needs to be renewed every two weeks and the opposition parties have indicated that they will no longer support it. In addition, our local contacts report that most of the data is changing every week during this de-escalation process and so this process is still very fluid.

CRITERION: The venue continues to meet mandatory criteria.


#	Test	Assessment	
1.1	All of the mandatory venue selection criteria from section 3.1 of RFC 8178 ⁴ can be met (space, access, network, etc)	<p>The hotel reports that the following restrictions are to be put in place until at least 1 September or later:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting space anticipated to be limited to 50% normal capacity • One guest per 6 foot table in classroom set-up • Two meter distance between rows (front to back) and one meter distance between seats (side to side) for theatre • Each of the seven elevators on property is to be managed by a staff person to control the 	

² <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/Documents/2020/PlanTransicionNuevaNormalidad.pdf>

³ https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/Documents/2020/28042020_Anexo%20I%20FASES.pdf

⁴ <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8178#section-3.1>

		<p>flow of people and to clean between trips - currently, under Spanish standards, only one person allowed in an elevator at a time (other than members of the same family). Hotel has prepared a plan to allow four people into an elevator at one time, but like all other space-related matters, this has not been approved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All food service will be pre-prepared and wrapped, like airlines on trays or boxed - currently in the works but not finalized <p>ASSESSMENT: Not met.</p>	
1.2	Any prohibitions on mass gatherings are only for events of more than 1250 people.	<p>The government de-escalation plan limits the number of attendees at science/innovations conferences during all phases at levels far below 1250. It is not clear if any limits will remain after the final Phase 4.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Not met</p>	
1.3	There are enough restaurants within the vicinity of the meeting hotels operating at sufficient capacity to serve our expected number of participants.	<p>The government de-escalation plan limits restaurants capacity during all phases. Local contacts report that the restaurants all intend to open as they expect to have sufficient customers. Given the central location of the hotel, this should be sufficient for our needs.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Confident that it will be met</p>	
1.4	Local medical facilities capable of treating COVID-19 have sufficient capacity.	<p>Madrid has significantly expanded its medical resources and is maintaining this level until the end of the year.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Met</p>	

1.5	Other similar international meetings (conferences) are confirmed as going ahead before or at the same time as our planned meeting.	The hotel reports that the IETF is the first scheduled group to hold an event with Melia Castilla post-Covid - next large groups are scheduled for late August and September. Additional research shows that all international conferences scheduled for July ⁵ have moved online. ASSESSMENT: Not met	
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<https://www.google.com/search?q=madrid+events+july+2020&oq=madrid+events+july+2020&aqs=chrome.69i59j0j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&ibp=htl:events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuuOdvgrpAhUGyzgGHcV1ClwQ5rwDKAF6BAgQEAQ#htivrt=events&htidocid=L2F1dGhvcml0eS9ob3Jpem9uL2NsdXN0ZXJIZF9ldmVudC8yMDIwLTA3LTA4fF8yNzA2ODgzNDE1MDkxODE5MzI3&fpstate=tldetail>

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

#	Test	Assessment	
2.1	Local assessment of the health and safety risk of travelling to Madrid	The official Madrid Tourism site has not been updated recently enough and so has not been used. The assessment from local contacts in Madrid is that, while things are improving and a de-escalation plan is in place, there are too many aspects that can change during the coming weeks, so the uncertainty level is too high. ASSESSMENT Not met	
2.2	Independent assessment of the health and safety risk of travelling to Spain	The US CDC travel alert for Spain is at Warning Level 3 “avoid non-essential travel”. ⁶ ASSESSMENT: Not met	
2.3	Assessment of the health and safety risk of air travel in and of itself.	The most recent WHO advice is from February and so has not been used. The IATA, who have previously published joint statements with the WHO have assessed the risk as lower ⁷ than in a shopping center or office, but have not given an absolute assessment of risk. ASSESSMENT: Unable to assess	

⁶ https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/spain?s_cid=ncezid-dgmg-travel-single-001

⁷ <https://www.iata.org/en/youandiata/travelers/health/>

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	
3.1	Spanish borders are not closed to visitors	Spanish borders are currently closed to all except residents with a recently imposed 14 day self-isolation period ⁸ and there is no clarity on whether border restrictions will be eased to allow full international travel by the end of July. The de-escalation plan notes the requirement for "European consensus for the establishment of security measures in the resumption of air traffic" as a prerequisite and some EU country leaders have warned that borders may not reopen until September or later. ASSESSMENT: Not confident that it will be met	
3.2	No form of quarantine on arrival in Spain	See 3.1 ASSESSMENT: Not confident that it will be met	
3.3	No form of self-isolation requirement on arrival in Spain	See 3.1 and in particular the current requirement for a 14 day self-isolation period on arrival in Spain. ASSESSMENT: Not confident that it will be met	
3.4	No new form of health-related travel restriction imposed by Spain or the EU that is inherently discriminatory in nature.	See 3.1 ASSESSMENT: Unable to assess	

⁸ <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/05/12/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-4932.pdf>

Assessed on a per country basis

This assessment uses the table of average attendance⁹ by country for the four European meetings held in recent years (IETF 96 Berlin, IETF 99 Prague, IETF 101 London, IETF 104 Prague). The top ten countries by percentage account for 79% of expected participants and the threshold for the following criteria to be met is that 20% or less of expected participants are affected.

#	Test	Assessment	Percent	
3.5	Any form of quarantine on return affects less than 20% of expected participants	Quarantine (not the same as self-isolation) on return is required by a few countries. ASSESSMENT: Met	<10%	
3.6	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	14 day self-isolation in place for many countries including a number of the top 10 countries by percentage (United States, China, Canada). ASSESSMENT: Not met	>20%	
3.7	Government travel bans in either direction, affects less than 20% of expected participants	See 3.1. Few reports have been found of countries preventing their citizens from leaving and so this is calculated mainly on the Spanish gov't ban on incoming travellers. ASSESSMENT: Not met.	>90%	

⁹ <https://www.ietf.org/media/documents/attendees-per-country-recent-eu-meetings.csv>

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

Assessment of these criteria has been carried out in a lightweight manner by utilising flight comparison websites and searching for flights from the capital cities of the top 10 countries by percentage for travel to Madrid in late July. Given the assessment of the other criteria, these criteria are not the only determining factors and so a lightweight process does not seem inappropriate.

#	Test	Assessment	Percent	
4.1	Sufficient capacity of flight availability to Spain for at least 80% of expected participants.	Sufficient capacity of flights advertised from the capital cities of the top 10 countries by percentage, for travel to Madrid in late July. ASSESSMENT: Met	>80%	
4.2	Fares within reasonable range for at least 80% of expected participants.	Flights advertised from the capital cities of the top 10 countries by percentage, for travel to Madrid in late July, appear to be at a reasonable price. ASSESSMENT: Met	>80%	

Summary

16 individual criteria have been assessed and all need to be assessed as “Met” or “Confident that it will be met” for an in-person meeting to be held. Of those 16, 5 have been assessed as “Met” or “Confident that it will be met” and 9 assessed as “Not met” or “Not confident that it will be met” and 2 as “Unable to assess”.