

# Madrid European Headquarters for the Anti-Money Laundering Authority



MADRID



Comunidad  
de Madrid



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS ECONÓMICOS  
Y TRANSFORMACIÓN DIGITAL



To count on Spain to host the Headquarters of the European Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) is to count on the strength and dexterity of a pioneering country in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Spanish national framework on supervision and financial intelligence is amongst the highest rated worldwide.

To count on Madrid to host AMLA's Headquarters is to count on the trustworthiness of a welcoming and cosmopolitan city with an extraordinarily high quality of life, and first-class infrastructures; a city leader in connectivity and cyber security, and one of the major financial powerhouses of Europe.

*Count on Spain.*

*Count on Madrid.*

*Count on Us.*

# Spain: Benchmark in the Fight Against Money Laundering

Spain is firmly committed to Anti-money Laundering (AML) and to the preservation of European values, and is a worldwide referent in the field.

Regarding AMLA'S future provisions, the Spanish system maintains its high standards. Spain is the only country in the UE and in the world with the highest ratings in the following areas:<sup>1</sup>

- Spain stands out for its AML supervision. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) underscores that “Spain has a strong system of AML/ CFT supervision in the financial sector and has demonstrated that its supervision and monitoring processes have prevented criminals from controlling financial institutions.”<sup>2</sup>
- The Spanish private sector has high compliance standards. “The overall strength of the preventive measures applied by Spain’s financial institutions is most notable in the banking sector.”<sup>3</sup>
- Spain ranks among the top four countries in the world in the production and use of financial intelligence.<sup>4</sup>



(1) Spain holds the top ranked assessment report in the FATF chart, and it is the only country in the world whose effectiveness is regarded with the highest ratings (“substantial” and “high”) in 10 of the 11 outcomes assessed. (Mutual Evaluation Report of Spain, 2014, and 5<sup>th</sup> year Follow up Assessment, 2019.)

(2) Our supervisory system is thorough and effective and has been recognised as one of the top 2 in the EU by FATF.

(3) Mutual Evaluation Report of Spain, 2014, and 5<sup>th</sup> year Follow up Assessment, 2019

(4) Spain is, along with The Netherlands, the only European country holding the highest ranking. FATF 4<sup>th</sup> round ratings.

*The Spanish financial system has been regarded as one of the best in the world.*

*Spain has a thorough and effective monitoring system, internationally recognised.*



# Spain: a Precursor Framework to that of AMLA

The Spanish anti-money laundering model already has a robust institutional design similar to that proposed for AMLA. It provides a collegiate body (the Commission for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Monetary Offences) that acts as a regulator (through its Secretary department) and supervisor and Financial Intelligence Unit (through its Executive Body, SEPBLAC).

Spain also stands out for its top management level of coordination of the institutions involved in the prevention, supervision, investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing, and provides commanding procedures for international cooperation.

The election of Madrid as future Headquarters would allow it to set up synergies with other agencies and institutions, as well as to recruit specialised and highly qualified staff, while preserving the essential independence of AMLA.



*Spain stands out for its high proficiency coordinating and cooperating in the prevention of money laundering both locally and internationally.*



# Madrid: Front-runner in Digital Infrastructure, Business and Transportation

Madrid's digital infrastructures have transformed the city into one of the main telecommunications and data hubs of Southern Europe.<sup>1</sup> Madrid is one of the three European cities with best connectivity,<sup>2</sup> including its outstanding 100% broadband reception.

Spain's commitment to cyber security, as well as the means and resources allocated to this end, position Madrid's candidacy as one of the most advanced in terms of guaranteeing and protecting the security of information.

Thanks to its wide range of hotels and congress venues, and to its excellent transport network connecting the city with the rest of Europe and the world,<sup>3</sup> Madrid has become one of the favourite destinations for business.



(1) Spain is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the EU chart of best continental connectivity. (Digital Economy and Society Index Report, 2022).

(2) Madrid is the 3<sup>rd</sup> European city providing the best connectivity. (Financial Times, fDi European Cities and Regions of the Future, 2022-23).

(3) Madrid Barajas is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best airport in Southern Europe (Skytrax World Airport Awards, 2022); and the 4<sup>th</sup> in Europe in terms of passenger traffic (Eurostat, 2020).



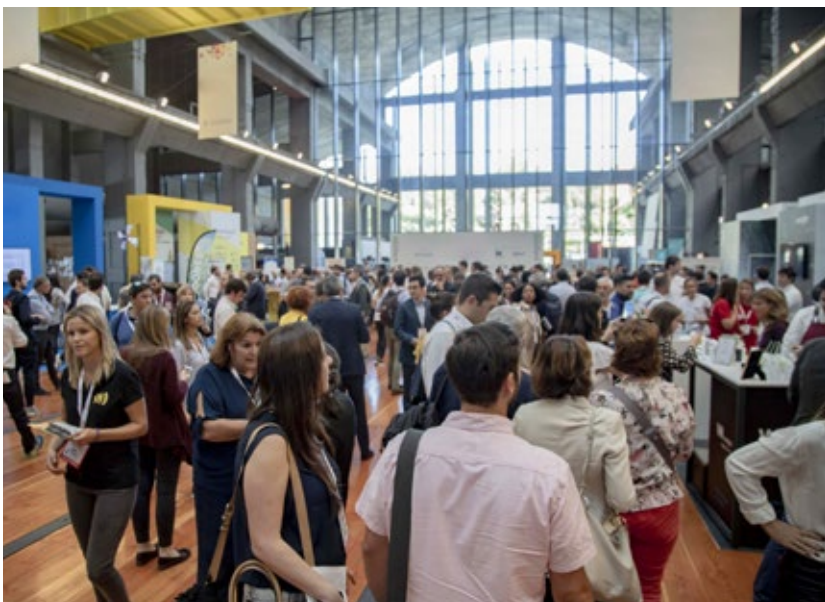
*Devoted to connect people and business,  
Madrid is a quintessential hub for professionals.*



# Madrid: Economic Force and Land of Opportunity

Madrid is regarded as the sixth region in Europe in terms of GDP,<sup>1</sup> holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> position as European city with greater Greenfield cross-border investment projects,<sup>2</sup> and is also the fourth continental city with a larger number of start-ups.<sup>3</sup> Madrid is arguably one of the greatest economic engines of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a state-of-the-art professional hub with brilliant MBA schools, innovative spirit, hybrid work models and the smoothest support for entrepreneurship.

Its privileged location and connections places Madrid at the peak of the world's digital map. It is also worth noting that it is the capital of the Spanish language, one of the languages with greater economic projection in the entire planet, with a market of 600 million speakers.



(1) Eurostat 2020.

(2) fDi Markets: the in-depth cross border investment monitor from the Financial Times.

(3) MWC Digital Startup Ecosystem Overview 2019.

*Madrid is a stronghold of economic attraction full of opportunities, dynamism and entrepreneurship.*



# Madrid: a Vibrant City

In Madrid there are things to do and events to attend every day: art museums<sup>1</sup> and galleries, theatre premieres, all sorts of live music, top sport events, stores, boutiques<sup>2</sup>, high cuisine restaurants, tapas bars... Madrid blends smoothly the most exquisite European culture with the effervescence and the proverbial vitality of Spain's traditions. The city is a gateway to a vibrant world of colour and flavours that you won't want to miss.

Madrid is an artistic, cultural and gastronomic city<sup>3</sup>, brimming with positive energy. Life in Madrid is lived in company and outdoors, and it is precisely on the streets of the city where all features of its culture coalesce.



(1) Madrid hosts one of the world's richest art collections spreading over 98 museums, including 3 of the best in the planet (60 Best Museums in the World, 2022, [worldcitiesranking.com](http://worldcitiesranking.com)).

(2) According to WeThrift, The Best Cities for Shopping in 2022, Madrid is the best city in the world to go shopping.

(3) Featuring an extraordinary variety and range of places to eat and drink, including 22 restaurants awarded at least 1 Michelin star, Madrid is regarded as the second best European city in terms of gastronomic delights. (TimeOut, These are the world's 10 best cities for eating and drinking, 2021.)

*Museums, restaurants, entertainment,  
shopping... Madrid is the capital of those  
who are masters of their time.*



# Madrid: a Green, Bright and Healthy City

Basking in its wonderful Mediterranean climate, blessed with 3.000 hours of sunshine per year and everlasting blue skies, Madrid is one of the cities with the highest quality of life in the world.<sup>1</sup> Its extensive green areas<sup>2</sup> and a deep-rooted sports culture, with exceptional sports venues, make it easy to lead a healthy lifestyle.

And to ensure that you will always be in good hands, Madrid's healthcare system and hospital network are among the finest in the world<sup>3</sup>. We will do everything in our hands to make you feel better than ever so you can enjoy what really matters.



(1) Madrid is the fourth city in the world in terms of quality of life and safety. (Mori Memorial Foundation 2022.)

(2) Madrid offers more than 6.300 hectares of green areas in its urban area occupying 36 per cent of its surface area.

(3) Madrid's healthcare system is ranked 6th in the world in terms of quality of health. (Money.co.uk. Top 10 healthiest places to live 2021.)

*In Madrid you will live longer and better.*



# Madrid: Cosmopolitan, Welcoming and Familiar

Madrid is a family friendly city, adapted to modern households and providing a wide range of bilingual, international schools, and prestigious universities ranked amongst the best in the world.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, and thanks to the abundance of job offers in all sectors, every member of the family will have the opportunity to grow and develop personally and professionally.

Madrid is an extremely safe city offering lively neighbourhoods, filled with affordable and high quality opportunities in real estate,<sup>2</sup> where you will certainly find your dream house.<sup>3</sup>

If you add to this the friendly character of its folk, a large community of expats, one of the most modern public transport networks, and a lower cost of living than the rest of continental capitals... Living in Madrid is, undoubtedly, very easy.<sup>4</sup>



(1) The Community of Madrid has 55 international schools, and only its urban area encapsulates no less than 339 bilingual schools. In addition, Madrid offers 19 colleges, six of which are regarded as the best worldwide. (QS World University Rankings 2023.)

(2) Madrid is the 4th safest European capital, according to The Economist Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2021.

(3) Third European city with the lowest prices to purchase a house. (CIA Landlords. The Most&Least Affordable European cities to Buy a Home 2021.)

(4) According to its expat population, Madrid is the 3rd best city to live in the EU, and one of the top ten in the world. (Expatriate City Ranking 2021.)



*No matter where you come from:  
Madrid is your city.*



# Madrid

## Provides a Building for AMLA's Headquarters

Madrid's candidacy final touch is to also provide a building to host the Headquarters in the heart of its business district, deliberately chosen to meet AMLA's needs.

The Headquarters will be operational by 2024 in a building awarded with the certificate of sustainable construction, and will have an initial capacity of 250 employees (expandable to a capacity of 450).

The Headquarters will be easily accessible using public transport, walking or cycling, resting just 12 kilometres away from Barajas International airport, and less than 5 kilometres from an AVE station (Spain's High Speed Rail Network).



*A building resting in one of the best-located areas of the city ready and thoroughly prepared to meet AMLA's needs.*



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**#Madrid4AMLA**