

Madrid European Headquarters for the Anti-Money Laundering Authority



MADRID



Comunidad
de Madrid



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS ECONÓMICOS
Y TRANSFORMACIÓN DIGITAL

Spain, a Country:

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:¹

- 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."
- 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."
- Spain ranks among the top four countries in the world in the production and use of financial intelligence.²

Precursor of the Framework to that of AMLA

The Spanish AML model already has a robust institutional design similar to that proposed for AMLA, where the Commission for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Monetary Offences and its supporting bodies act as a regulator, supervisor and Financial Intelligence Unit.

Spain stands out for the coordination at the highest level of its local institutions, and provides commanding mechanisms 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.

Madrid, a City:

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. Madrid is one of the three European cities with the best connectivity.

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, Madrid has become one of the favourite destinations for business.

Economic Force and Land of Opportunity

Regarded as the sixth region in Europe in terms of GDP, Madrid holds the 2nd position as continental city with greater Greenfield cross-border investment projects, and is also the fourth continental city with a larger number of start-ups... Madrid is arguably a major economic force and a remarkable talent hub.

Its privileged location and connections places Madrid at the peak of the world's digital map. It is also 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.

Such a Vibrant Land

In Madrid there are things to do every day: art museums and galleries, theatre premieres, all sorts of live music, top sport events, stores, boutiques, high cuisine restaurants, tapas bars... Madrid brims 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.

Green, Bright and Healthy

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.³ Its extensive green areas 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 is one of the finest in the world. We will do everything in our hands to make you feel better than ever so you can enjoy what really matters.

Cosmopolitan, Welcoming and Familiar

Madrid is a city adapted to modern households and providing a wide range of international schools and prestigious universities ranked amongst the best in the world, plus job opportunities in all professional sectors.

Madrid is an extremely safe city and not only has one of the most modern public transport networks, but affordable and quality real estate.

If you add to this the friendly character of its folk, a large community of expats, and a lower cost of living than the rest of continental capitals.... Living in Madrid is, undoubtedly, very easy.⁴

Providing a Building for AMLA's Headquarters

Madrid also provides a building to host the Headquarters in the heart of its business district.

The Headquarters will be operational by 2024 in a building awarded with the certificate of sustainable construction and smoothly connected by public transport, on foot or by bicycle, resting just 12 kilometres away from Barajas International Airport and less than 5 kilometres from an AVE station (Spain's High Speed Rail Network).

Count on Us.



(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 5th year Follow up Assessment, 2019.)

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

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

(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. (Expats City Ranking 2021.)