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## Merkel says US calling European cars a threat is 'frightening'

#### Munich, Germany

erman Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday. labelled as "frightening" tough US trade rhetoric planning to declare European car imports a national security threat.

"If these cars... suddenly spell a threat to US national security, than that is frightening to us," she said.

Merkel pointed out that the biggest car plant of German luxury brand BMW was not in Bavaria but in South Carolina, from where it exports vehicles to China.

"All I can say is it would be good if we could resume proper talks with one another," she said ence

"Then we will find a solution."



at the Munich Security Confer- German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) greets US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the 55th Munich Security Conference in Munich, southern Germany

A US Commerce Department imports threaten national secu- tariffs by the White House, two said Thursday. report has concluded that auto rity, setting the stage for possible people familiar with the matter

imports "impair" US national ations continued. security, said a European auto industry source.

another auto company.

ed to be delivered to the White ropean Parliament last month. House by a Sunday deadline, foreign automakers.

the American car industry.

US president will have 90 days to Mexico and China. decide whether to move ahead with tariffs

The investigation, ordered by truce with European Commis- a threat to US national security.

Erdogan won't go back on

President Donald Trump in May, sion President Jean-Claude is "positive" with respect to the Juncker, with the two pledging central question of whether the no new tariffs while the negoti-

Brussels has already drawn up a list of 20 billion euros (\$22.6 "It's going to say that auto im- billion) in US exports for retaliports are a threat to national atory tariffs should Washington security," said an official with press ahead, the commission's Director-General for Trade The report, which is expect- Jean-Luc Demarty told the Eu-

The White House has used has been seen as a major risk for the national security argument -- saying that undermining the Trump has threatened to slap American manufacturing base 25 percent duties on European impairs military readiness, autos, especially targeting Ger- among other claims -- to impose many, which he says has harmed steep tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, drawing instant After receiving the report, the retaliation from the EU, Canada,

Trading partners have sometimes reacted with outrage at the Trump in July reached a trade suggestion their exports posed

## Pence urges EU to recognise Guaido as Venezuela president

### Munich, Germany

 $\mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{s\,Vice\,President\,Mike\,Pence}}_{\mathrm{on\,\,Saturday\,\,called\,\,on\,\,the}}$ European Union to recognise opposition leader Juan Guaido as the president of Venezuela.

"All of us must stand with the Venezuelan people until freedom and democracy is fully restored," Pence told the Munich Security Conference.

"So today we call on the European Union to step forward for freedom and recognise Juan Venezuelan opposition leader and self Guaido as the only legitimate president of Venezuela.'



declared acting president Juan Guaido

Guaido, the head of Vene- clared himself president of the zuela's National Assembly, de- crisis-wracked country in Jan-

Samsung to launch US retail stores

uary, piling pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

Pence said that after the United States became the first nation to recognise the parliamentary leader as head of state, "52 nations including 30 of our European allies have followed America's lead"

"But it's time for the rest of the world to step forward," he said.

"Once more the Old World can take a stance in support of freedom in the New World. All of us must stand with the Venezuelan people until freedom and democracy is fully restored."

## S-400 deal with Russia Ankara, Turkey

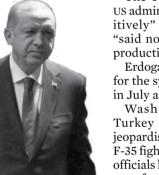
President Recep Tayyip Er-dogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published yesterday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of \$3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey,





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production, credit and early delivery are of vital importance," Erdogan added.

The Turkish leader said the US administration "looked positively" at early delivery but "said nothing regarding joint production and credit".

Erdogan said work continued for the systems to be delivered in July as promised before.

Washington has warned Turkey the S-400s purchase jeopardised participation in the F-35 fighter jets programme. US officials have said Ankara could even face sanctions on defence purchases under US law if it goes ahead.

But Ankara has said the two defence systems are not seen as an alternative for the other.

The S-400 deal is one of the ev symbols of the warm lationship enjoyed by Erdogan and Putin, who have also worked closely on finding a political solution

to the Syrian war.

San Francisco, United States their own, a place where they they never thought was po

Camsung announced Friday ucts first-hand." **D**it will open three US retail stores to promote its Galaxy line Americana at Brand mall in of smartphones as the South Los Angeles; Roosevelt Field Korean giant sets to launch an in Garden City, New York; and updated flagship handset.

The move ramps up Samsung's efforts to compete on launch Wednesday in San Fran-

it made the move after feedback the segment. from customers.

a store and experience how the its technology in New York City. latest technology from Samsung works together to create ence Stores are spaces to expea unique, immersive experi- rience and see Samsung techence," the company said in a nology brought to life, to statement.

"Galaxy fans, in particular, do what mentioned that they were looking for a space

to call

can get a feel for Samsung prod-

The new stores will be at the The Galleria in Houston, Texas.

Samsung is holding a product the home turf of Apple, which cisco amid speculation it may has hundreds of retail outlets launch a folding smartphone, in the US and around the world. which would make it the first 2018 despite an eight percent Samsung said in a statement of the major handset makers in

Samsung has previously "They told us that they love opened pop-up stores in the worst overall decline in sales having the ability to walk into US and has a center showcasing for the smartphone sector.

> "Our new Samsung Experiempower people to

ble before," said YH Eom, president of Samsung Electronics America.

"We want to build a 'playground' for Samsung fans -- a place to learn about and try out all of the amazing new products we have to offer."

Samsung remained the number one global handset maker with a 20.8 percent share in sales slump for the year, according to research firm IDC -which said last year showed the

#### Representative picture

which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts.

"But this sale must serve the interests of our country. To this end, joint

ERDOGAN