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Spain's public prosecutor pushes for VW investigation

SPAIN'S public prosecutor has asked the country's High Court to investigate German carmaker Volkswagen and the scandal surrounding its rigging of diesel emissions tests, according to a court document seen by Reuters. The public prosecutor argued that Volkswagen might have committed fraud, including by taking subsidies illicitly, and may have committed a crime related to the environment due to pollution by its cars, the document showed.

Volkswagen declined to comment. If Spain's High Court agrees to take on the case, it would be handed to an investigating

magistrate and could still take months or even years to go to trial -- or it could be dropped.

Europe's largest automaker has admitted rigging diesel emissions tests in the United States, and its operations elsewhere are also being scrutinised.

It has said that in Spain alone, nearly 700,000 cars, mostly linked to its SEAT brand, may have included the illegal software at the heart of the scandal which erupted in mid-September.

Volkswagen's share price has suffered as a result and its long-time chief executive had to quit.

NATO'S SHOW OF FORCE



● The Spanish air force base at Palma airport is involved in the NATO exercise

Palma.— NATO and its allies opened their largest military exercise in more than a decade on Monday, choosing the central Mediterranean to showcase strengths that face threats from Russia's growing military presence from the Baltics to Syria. Military bases in Spain are playing a key role in the exercises including the Spanish air force base at Palma.

As planes flew over a gala ceremony for

NATO's military and political leaders at an air base in southern Italy, Russia's resurgence was the central topic of concern, pushing NATO to embark on its biggest modernisation since the Cold War.

"This sends a very clear message to any potential aggressor," NATO's top commander General Philip Breedlove said of the Trident Juncture exercises and the testing of a new rapid-reaction force.

"Any attempt to violate the sovereignty of one NATO nation will result in the decisive military engagement of all NATO nations," Breedlove said, before donning flight gear to oversee a fly-over of dozens of fighter jets and camouflaged helicopters.

But looming over the exercises involving some 36,000 troops, ships and aircraft over five weeks is the issue of how

far Russia's growing military presence from the Baltics to Syria can limit NATO's ability to move around by sea and air.

From the Baltics, where Russia has a naval base in Kaliningrad, through the Black Sea and annexed Crimea, to Moscow's intervention in Syria, Russia has stationed anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles able to cover huge areas.



ALL ABOARD!

Pupils from the Agora Portals School went aboard the *Allure of the Seas* in Palma yesterday. She is one of the biggest cruise ships in the world.

Former King of Spain's Ferraris to be auctioned off

TWO Ferraris that were a gift to Spain's King Juan Carlos and which he donated to the state before abdicating will be auctioned off by the treasury ministry, which hopes to fetch around 700,000 euros (\$800,000) from their sale. The sleek four-seaters - both Ferrari FF models, one in black and one in silver-grey - went on show on Monday at a government showroom in central Madrid, where official cars no longer in use are sometimes sold off. Juan Carlos, once one of Europe's most popular monarchs, who helped smooth Spain's transition to democracy in the 1970s, abdicated in favour of his son Felipe in June 2014.

His popularity plummeted in 2012 when news of an elephant-hunting safari gave a glimpse of a high-flying lifestyle while ordinary Spaniards endured economic crisis. King Felipe VI, 47, has restored some of the monarchy's reputation pursuing a more austere style and taking a tough stance on some of the scandals that have damaged the royal family.

