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General Motors tries to reassure UK and Germany over Peugeot-Opel talks

London.— General Motors has played down the possibility of large-scale factory closures in Germany and Britain following any deal to sell its European brands to Peugeot maker PSA Group, according to officials in both countries.

However, two sources close to PSA told *Reuters* that job and plant cuts were part of the French carmaker's ongoing discussions over a potential deal to buy GM's Opel and Vauxhall brands, with UK sites in the front line.

News of the talks between the two automakers earlier this week sparked particular concern in Germany and Britain, where Opel and Vauxhall employ thousands of workers.

The structure of any deal has yet to be decided and it is unclear whether GM might have a stake in the combined business.

Following a meeting with GM president Dan Ammann yesterday, British business minister Greg Clark said he had been reassured GM did not intend to "rationalise" its Vauxhall operations in Britain.

HIGH NOON

- Verdict expected today at 12p.m. in Palma in one of Spain's most closely watched trials involving the King's sister, her husband and the former President of the Balearics.
- King's brother-in-law faces 19 year jail sentence.
- See Page Three.



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