

US praises German 5G standards as Huawei battle simmers

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In this Friday, March 29, 2019 file photo, Huawei mobile phones are displayed at a telecoms service shop in Hong Kong. The top U.S. diplomat for cybersecurity policy has praised Germany's draft security standards for next generation mobile networks, which he said could effectively shut out China's Huawei. Rob Strayer said Wednesday April 10, 2019, the standards published last month were a "positive step." (AP Photo/Kin Cheung, File)

The top U.S. diplomat for cybersecurity policy on Wednesday praised

Germany's draft security standards for next generation mobile networks, which he said could effectively shut out China's Huawei.

The standards published last month were a "positive step," said Rob Strayer, who's leading the U.S. campaign to persuade its allies to stop using the Chinese tech giant's network gear.

The German standards , which are subject to feedback from the industry, call for mobile providers to use "trustworthy" telecom equipment suppliers that comply with national security regulations covering communications secrecy and [data protection](#).

The U.S. has been lobbying European allies to ban Huawei from new 5G networks over concerns China's communist leaders could force the company to use its equipment for cyberespionage. Huawei, the world's biggest maker of telecom network gear, has consistently denied the U.S. allegations.

While no European countries have issued blanket bans, Strayer said a "risk-based" approach to evaluating telecom suppliers, including their relationship with their [national government](#), would "lead inevitably" to banning Huawei.

"At this point we're looking for governments to adopt security standards like we're seeing in Germany," Strayer told reporters on a conference call.

The German requirements are incompatible with China's national intelligence law, which compels companies to cooperate with intelligence requests, so "it's hard to see how Chinese technology would meet that standard," Strayer said.

The U.S. is concerned that intelligence sharing or other forms of

cooperation with its allies could be hurt if those countries use unsecure equipment from untrusted countries in their 5G networks, Strayer said.

The battle over Huawei has intensified in recent months as countries in Europe and elsewhere prepare to deploy 5G networks, starting with the auction of frequencies this year.

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