

Trade

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Trump's pasta tariffs scaled back, says Italy

LAUREN FEDOR — WASHINGTON

The US government has scaled back tariffs that would have doubled the cost of Italian pasta brands, Italy's foreign ministry said yesterday.

The US had accused 13 Italian pasta companies, including Barilla and premium brands such as La Molisana and Pastificio Lucio Garofalo, of unfairly dumping their products in America.

But yesterday the Italian government said the US Department of Commerce had slashed the planned additional tariffs on these products from as much as 92 per cent to a range of 2 to 14 per cent for different brands.

The US commerce department did not respond to a request for comment.

The White House has already rolled back tariffs that had been imposed on more than 200 food products as part of President Donald Trump's trade wars, amid voter concerns over the cost of living and high consumer prices.

The Italian pasta tariffs, which were set to take effect this month, would have added a levy of up to 92 per cent for these products on top of the 15 per cent tariff that the US president had set for most imports from the EU.

The Trump administration's proposals had sparked outrage in Rome and Brussels. The planned duties posed a diplomatic problem for Italian Prime

Minister Giorgia Meloni, who has broadly enjoyed friendly relations with the US president. The European Commission had pledged to intervene.

Coldiretti, Italy's agribusiness association, had warned the tariffs would be a "fatal blow" to Italian pasta makers, saying about half the value of Italy's dry pasta exports to the US would be hit. The US imported about €671mn worth of pasta from Italy in 2024.

The Italian government yesterday said the commerce department planned to set much lower rates for the pasta brands after a preliminary review of their operations.

The duty for La Molisana was slashed to 2.26 per cent, while the rate for Garofalo was set at 13.98 per cent. The remaining 11 pasta producers would face tariffs of 9.09 per cent, according to Italy's foreign ministry.

"The recalculation of the duties is a sign that US authorities recognise our companies' constructive willingness to co-operate," the ministry said.

The change came a day after the White House said it was delaying planned tariff increases on upholstered furniture, kitchen cabinets and vanities.

The White House on Wednesday said the US "continues to engage in productive negotiations with trade partners" and would delay the planned increase in tariff rates "for an additional year".

L'Italia annuncia che i dazi sulla pasta imposti da Trump sono stati ridotti

