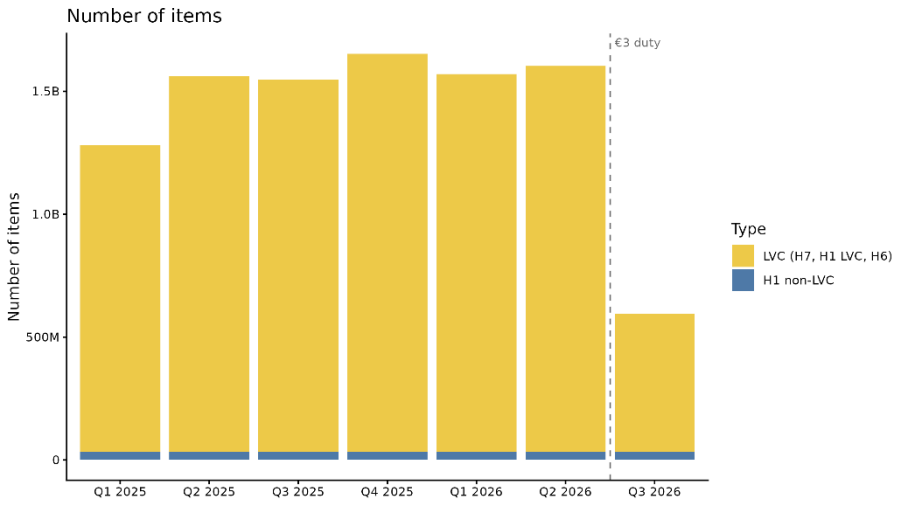
30 October 2026

IMPORT OF E-COMMERCE PARCELS – Situation for Q3 2026

Preliminary assessment

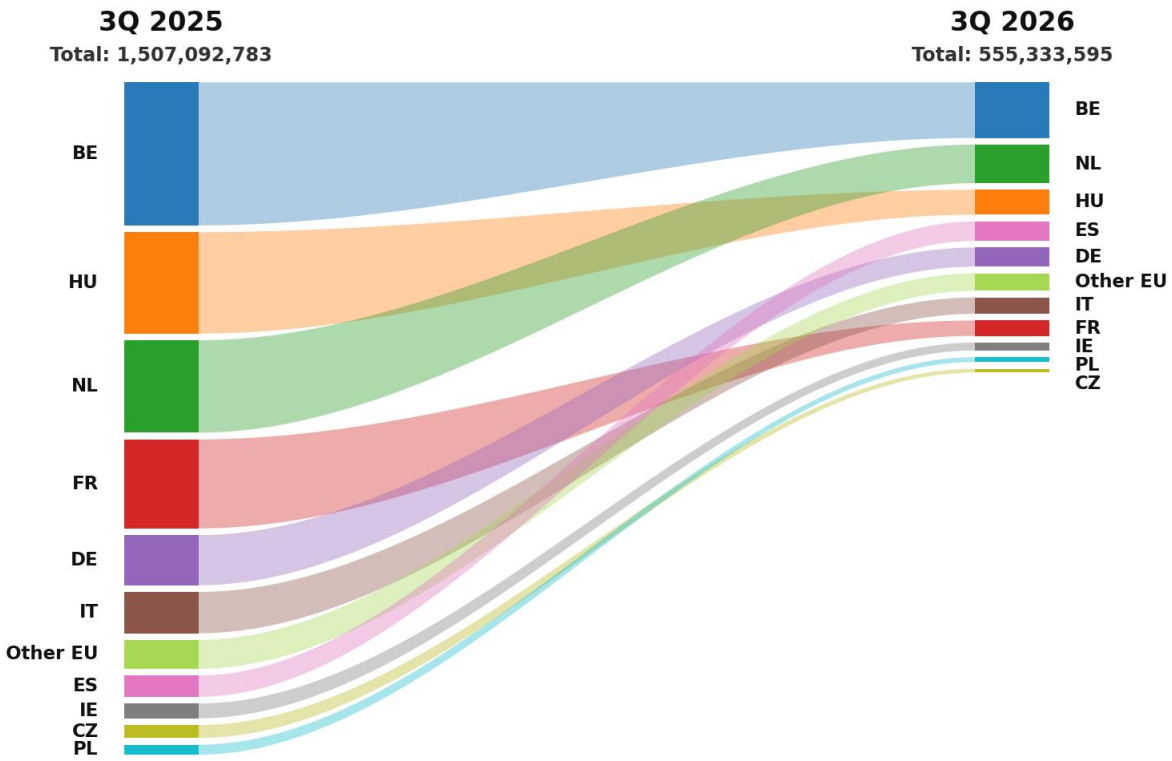
The abolition of the customs duty exemption for goods in consignments valued up to EUR 150 and imposition of the temporary EUR 3 duty from 1 July 2026 have led to a decrease of the low value items directly shipped to Union consumers from third countries, even if the customs authorities must still process very significant volumes. In fact, **555.33 million parcels were imported in the EU in Q3 2026, a decrease by more than 60% on average in the EU**, compared to the pre-duty trend (i.e. prior to July 2026).

Figure 1: Quarterly totals (number of items) by declaration's types



Yet, the customs authorities of the Member States must still process every day 10 times more ecommerce items than normal international trade items. **On average, every day, at least 5 million items directly shipped to consumer from third countries are imported**, as opposed to less than 0.4 million items per day of bulk trade.

Figure 2: Total number of ecommerce items by Member State



Some of the low value goods seem to be now imported in bulk (i.e. bigger quantities) with payment of the relevant customs duties, so they can be stored in the Union and distributed from there to the Union consumers. These preliminary results may indicate that business models are evolving.

The Commission will work with the Member States to ensure that these goods are properly declared and that there is a responsible importer in the EU.

Data Source

This preliminary assessment is based on Surveillance data, which are based on a subset of the raw customs data collected by national customs authorities and transmitted to the Commission. While the Commission aims to improve the quality of data transmission, transmission delays, revisions to declarations and outliers may affect the results, both at aggregate level and for specific data elements or individual issuers. EUROSTAT data remain the official statistics of the European Union