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## **40 years of Customs Union: Commissioner Kovács welcomes the European Parliament's resolution**

EU Taxation and Customs Commissioner László Kovács today welcomed the European Parliament's vote on a resolution on Customs Union, which recognises the important role of customs and reiterates Parliament's support for the implementation of a common European Customs Strategy beyond 2013. The EP Resolution comes in the run-up to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of European Customs Union on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008. Over the past 4 decades, customs have played a crucial role in allowing the Single Market to function effectively, protecting citizens against unsafe or counterfeit goods and facilitating trade. Commissioner Kovacs has been taking part in many other activities to mark this important milestone, including visits to customs at Rotterdam harbour, Frankfurt airport and Röszke (Hungary) land border last week. He will also participate in a special customs anniversary event organised by the French Presidency in Bercy on 4<sup>th</sup> July. To celebrate Customs Union, many national activities are planned across the EU, including Open Days, exhibitions, sporting events, parades and conferences. Information on EU customs and the activities to celebrate the anniversary, including video footage and photographs, can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/40customs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/40customs/index_en.htm)