

## László Kovács

European Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union

### Details



Key Note Speaker on *"EU paperless customs"*

2004 - Member of the European Commission, Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union

2002 - 2004 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary

1998 - 2004 Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party (re-elected in 2000)

1990 - 2004 Member of the Presidium of the Hungarian Socialist Party

1990 - 2004 Member of the Hungarian Parliament (re-elected in 1994, 1998 and 2002)

1998-2000 Head of the Parliamentary Faction of the Hungarian Socialist Party

2003 - 2008 Vice-Chairman of the Socialist International

1996 -2003 Co-Chairman of the Central and East European Committee of the Socialist International

1997-1999 Member of the Council of Wise Men of the Council of Europe

1995 Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

1994-1998 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary

1993-1994 Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament

1990-1993 Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament

### At the Conference

After giving his main speech Mr Kovács spoke about the 100% scanning law from the US. He said that he would be going to the US to inform the US that he thought the law is a unilateral approach which will create bottlenecks and problems for shipping and it will not increase security. He said that he has discussed this with people who work in ports and that this will not protect against chemical and other dangerous materials. It will be difficult for developing countries in particular.

He thought that this will lose its importance, politicians need catchwords and 100% scanning is a catchword after 9/11, so it is hoped that it will eventually lose its importance. Mutual recognition of standards and controls and between AEO and CTPAT is the way to go.