

## Romanians vote in first EU election

*by UPI*

BUDAPEST, Romania -- Romanian voters cast ballots in their first European Union elections Sunday. The election will determine the makeup of the country's 35 representatives in the European Parliament, Voice of America reported. Romania joined the European Union Jan. 1. A vote was scheduled for May, but was postponed because of conflict between President Trajan Basescu and Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu, VOA said. The president's centrist Democrat party is expected to win about 40 percent of the vote, while the prime minister's Liberal party is predicted to win about 13 percent. Voters hope parliamentary members will increase Romanians' access to other European countries and pursue economic policies to improve the country's standard of living, VOA said. Romania faces a loss of EU aid because it has failed to eliminate agricultural subsidies and tackle corruption.

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