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Referee appointed for semi-final in Milan

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced that Greek referee Kyros Vassaras will officiate at the first leg of the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League semi-final between AC Milan and PSV Eindhoven to be played at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in Milan on Tuesday 26 April, kicking-off at 20.45 CET.

His assistant referees will be Simeon Tsolakidis and Panagiotis Mavropoulos, while the 4th Official will be George Kasnaferis. All four members of the team are from Greece.

Kyros Vassaras, 39, has been a referee for 21 years; made his first division debut ten years ago and has been a FIFA referee since 1998. He played the role of 4th Official at EURO 2000™ and UEFA EURO 2004™; was selected for the FIFA World Cup 2002, where he officiated at the China v Costa Rica match; and was also in the refereeing team for the Athens Olympics last summer, where he officiated at four matches, including the final between Argentina and Paraguay.

This will be the third visit to San Siro for Kyros Vassaras for AC Milan matches. The first was on 18 September 2002, when the Italian team defeated RC Lens 2-1 and the second produced an identical scoreline but the other way round when RC Celta de Vigo visited the stadium on 9 December 2003 and earned an away win that secured their place in the next round. Kyros Vassaras also officiated at AC Milan's 1-0 win over FC Lokomotiv in Moscow on 25 February 2003 and their 0-0 draw with Celtic FC in Glasgow during the current campaign – on 7 December 2004, to be precise.

Whereas all of his meetings with AC Milan have been UEFA Champions League fixtures, his only previous contact with PSV Eindhoven was in the UEFA Cup when, on 15 February 2001, the Dutch side recorded a 2-1 home win over Italian opponents Parma AC.

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