

# UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

## MATCH PRESS KITS



**AS Roma**

**Stadio Olimpico - Rome**

Thursday 25 November 2021

21.00CET (21.00 local time)

Group C - Matchday 5



**FC Zorya Luhansk**

Last updated 24/11/2021 00:29CET



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## Match background

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Unexpectedly dislodged at the top of the Group C table by Norwegian giant-killers Bodø/Glimt, Roma will nevertheless secure further progress in the UEFA Europa Conference League if they can return to winning ways at home to an in-form Zorya Luhansk.

- José Mourinho's side went into their double-header against Bodø/Glimt with maximum points from their first two games, but were sensationally overwhelmed 6-1 in the away fixture before only managing a 2-2 draw in the Stadio Olimpico return. Zorya, meanwhile, climbed to within a point of Roma by doing the double over CSKA-Sofia (1-0 a, 2-0 h), Iranian forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh scoring in both games.
- Roma will secure a top-two placing with a win against Zorya, who will be out of contention if they lose in Italy and Bodø/Glimt beat eliminated CSKA at home in the section's other Matchday 5 fixture.

### Previous meetings

- Zorya's first UEFA encounter with opposition from Italy, on Matchday 2, resulted in a 0-3 home defeat by Roma, for whom Stephan El Shaarawy opened the scoring early on before Englishmen Chris Smalling and Tammy Abraham added further strikes midway through the second half.
- Roma have now won seven and lost six of their 13 matches against Ukrainian clubs. At home their record is W4 L2, with victories in the two most recent – both against Shakhtar Donetsk, latterly 3-0 in last season's UEFA Europa League round of 16 (5-1 agg).

### Form guide

#### Roma

- Roma finished seventh in Serie A last season, 29 points behind champions Inter, to become Italy's first UEFA Europa Conference League representatives. After topping their 2020/21 UEFA Europa League group, which also included Young Boys and CFR Cluj, Paulo Fonseca's side eliminated Braga, Shakhtar and Ajax in the knockout phase, only to fall to Manchester United in the semi-finals.
- Now led by another Portuguese coach, Mourinho, Roma won both legs of their UEFA Europa Conference League play-off, 2-1 away and 3-0 at home to Trabzonspor.
- A 0-2 defeat against holders Real Madrid in the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League group stage is the only one of their last 25 European fixtures in the Italian capital that Roma have lost, winning 18. They are now unbeaten in 15 UEFA matches at the Olimpico (W10 D5).

#### Zorya

- Third in the Ukrainian Premier League for the second season in a row, Zorya are featuring in European competition for an eighth successive year, all of those previous campaigns having been in the UEFA Europa League, including three group stage appearances. They have yet to experience European football in the spring.
- Viktor Skrypnyk's side missed out on another UEFA Europa League group campaign this season when they lost their play-off to Rapid Wien (0-3 a, 2-3 h) – a result that makes them the first team from Ukraine to compete in the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage.
- Zorya's 2-0 win in Bulgaria on Matchday 4 was one of only three victories in their last 13 European away games (D2 L8) and also just the third on their travels in European group stage football, the other eight having all ended in defeat.

### Links and trivia

- Zorya striker Olexandr Gladkyy's next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.
- Roma's Armenian international Henrikh Mkhitaryan played in Ukraine for Metalurh Donetsk (2009–10) and Shakhtar (2010–13), winning the domestic double in each of his three seasons with the latter and also topping the league scoring charts in his final campaign with 25 goals.
- Mkhitaryan was unbeaten in five Ukrainian Premier League games against Zorya (W3 D2), scoring four goals. He also found the net against them for Mourinho's Manchester United in a 2-0 win in Odessa to conclude the 2016/17 UEFA Europa League group stage. United had won the earlier game at Old Trafford 1-0.
- Zorya goalkeeper Mykyta Shevchenko was a team-mate of Mkhitaryan at Shakhtar in 2012/13.

## Legend

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## Competitions

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