

# UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

## MATCH PRESS KITS



**ŠK Slovan Bratislava**

**Národný futbalový štadión -  
Bratislava**

Thursday 25 November 2021  
18.45CET (18.45 local time)  
Group F - Matchday 5



**PAOK FC**

Last updated 24/11/2021 00:31CET



Match background

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Legend

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## Match background

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Slovan Bratislava and PAOK meet in the Slovakian capital on Matchday 5 locked together on seven points and aware that a victory for either side will ensure their safe passage through to the next phase of the UEFA Europa Conference League.

- Defeated 1-3 at home by Copenhagen in their opening fixture, Slovan grabbed their first two wins by beating Lincoln Red Imps home (2-0) and away (4-1), three of the six goals coming from Englishman Andre Green, while PAOK's unbeaten run ended on Matchday 4 with a 1-2 home defeat by a Copenhagen side they had overcome by the same score in Denmark a fortnight previously.
- The mathematics are simple for both clubs going into Matchday 5. A win will ensure a top-two finish, whereas a defeat will spell elimination if Copenhagen simultaneously beat Lincoln in Gibraltar. A draw would keep alive both teams' qualification chances.

### Previous meetings

- The points were shared in Salonika on Matchday 2, former England youth internationals scoring for each side in a 1-1 draw as Chuba Akpom opened the scoring for PAOK nine minutes in and Green equalised for Slovan six minutes later.
- The teams' one previous contest came in the 2019/20 UEFA Europa League play-offs, and it proved a close-run thing as Slovan edged out PAOK on away goals, their 3-2 defeat in Salonika securing a group stage berth after an added-time strike had given them a 1-0 first-leg win in Bratislava.
- Slovan's home record against Greek clubs is W2 D1 L1, the draw coming earlier this season as they were held 2-2 by Olympiacos in the second leg of the UEFA Europa League play-offs, losing the tie 5-2 on aggregate.
- PAOK's record in Slovakia is W1 D1 L1, their most recent encounter that defeat two years ago by Slovan.

### Form guide

#### Slovan

- A second successive Slovakian league and cup double was Slovan's reward for a dominant domestic season in 2020/21, which counterbalanced eliminations on entry in the qualifying phase of both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League, to KÍ of the Faroe Islands and KuPS of Finland respectively.
- UEFA Europa League group stage participants three times previously, Slovan are Slovakia's first representatives in the UEFA Europa Conference League proper. The start of their 2021/22 European campaign, under former Slovakia and Georgia head coach Vladimír Weiss, featured an aggregate victory and defeat in both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League – against, respectively, Shamrock Rovers (3-2) and Young Boys (2-3) in the former and Lincoln (4-2) and Olympiacos in the latter.
- The Matchday 3 win against Lincoln was Slovan's first in five European games in Bratislava (D3 L1) and just their second in 11 home UEFA group stage fixtures (D1 L8).

#### PAOK

- Regular performers in the UEFA Europa League group stage, where they have made eight appearances, PAOK are Greece's first representatives in the UEFA Europa Conference League equivalent. They qualified for the competition twice over last season, as runners-up in the league to Olympiacos and winners of the Greek Cup – for the eighth time – thanks to a 2-1 victory over the champions in the final.
- Having exited last season's UEFA Europa League at the group stage, with PSV Eindhoven and Granada both getting the better of them, PAOK entered the UEFA Europa Conference League in the third qualifying round, where, under returning head coach Răzvan Lucescu, they edged out Irish club Bohemians (1-2 a, 2-0 h) before beating Rijeka in the play-offs (1-1 h, 2-0 a).
- That victory at Rijeka in August ended PAOK's nine-match winless run on the road in UEFA competition (D1 L8). However, the Matchday 3 success in Copenhagen means the Salonika club have now won three consecutive European away games for the first time in their history.

### Links and trivia

- Vladimír Weiss junior, the son of Slovan's head coach, spent one season in the Greek Super League with Olympiacos (2013/14) but did not play against PAOK.
- Nigerian internationals Rabiú Ibrahim (Slovan) and Anderson Esiti (PAOK) were team-mates at club level for Gent in 2016/17. Slovan's Uche Agbo has also played for Nigeria.
- Green is the joint highest scorer in the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage with four goals – the same

number as Bodø/Glimt's Ola Solbakken.

# Legend

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## Competitions

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