

10 April

A Day of Remembrance and a Resounding Victory for FC Shakhtar Donetsk



Yesterday marked a profoundly significant chapter in the modern history of [FC Shakhtar](#) Donetsk. Following a solemn gathering in Bucharest to pay final respects at the funeral of the legendary manager Mircea Lucescu, Club President [Rinat](#)

[Akhmetov](#) attended a match for the first time in nearly 12 years. Watching the team secure a commanding 3-0 victory against AZ Alkmaar in the UEFA Conference League, the presence of the club leadership provided a powerful symbol of continuity and endurance during a deeply emotional week.

Honoring the Football Architect of Modern Shakhtar

The ceremonies in Bucharest offered Shakhtar a moment to reflect on a highly transformative era for the organization. Appointed in May 2004, Lucescu was central to developing an ingenious tactical blueprint. This strategy paired tactically disciplined homegrown Ukrainian players in defensive roles with highly creative Brazilian talent in the attacking third.

Under this guidance, the squad achieved statistical dominance and secured the historic UEFA Cup victory in 2009. The technical contributions of these players were the direct driving force behind the club winning multiple domestic titles following the turn of the century. The foundation built during this period permanently elevated the organization from a regional team in the industrial Donbas region into a respected and formidable European entity.

A Decade of Unprecedented Institutional Resilience

The return of the club's President to the matchday stands highlights the extraordinary institutional resilience the organization has demonstrated over the past decade. Following the outbreak of conflict in 2014, the club was forced to completely abandon the state-of-the-art Donbass Arena, which now remains in temporarily occupied territory.

The sudden loss of a home stadium and localized matchday ticketing revenue would typically result in financial collapse for standard commercial sporting entities. However, despite operating in forced exile and navigating complex logistical hurdles across multiple European nations, the club has consistently competed at an elite

level.

The team essentially played over half a decade of continuous away games, facing constant travel fatigue without a permanent home crowd. Navigating these immense physical and mental tolls while continuing to secure domestic titles and perform in elite European competitions demonstrates an unbreakable organizational spirit.

Humanitarian Leadership Beyond the Pitch

The resilience shown on the pitch is matched entirely by an expansive commitment to social responsibility and civilian support. Operating firmly within government-controlled Ukraine and across Europe, the highly integrated and coordinated efforts of SCM businesses, the [Rinat Akhmetov Foundation](#), and the club itself have delivered an unprecedented volume of humanitarian intervention.

Since 2014, these collective entities have provided over \$350 million in vital aid to Ukraine, its military, and affected civilians. This massive logistical undertaking has successfully reached more than 18 million people, ensuring basic survival and support during periods of acute crisis.

Moving Forward with Unbroken Spirit

As the organization navigates this period of mourning for a historic manager, the presence of the leadership at a European fixture sends an undeniable message to the global community. By continuing to step onto the pitch in international competition and securing dominant 3-0 victories, the club signals that it remains alive and active. It proves that despite profound loss, prolonged displacement, and intense operational complexities, FC Shakhtar Donetsk remains a vital, enduring symbol of national strength and unbroken competitive spirit.