

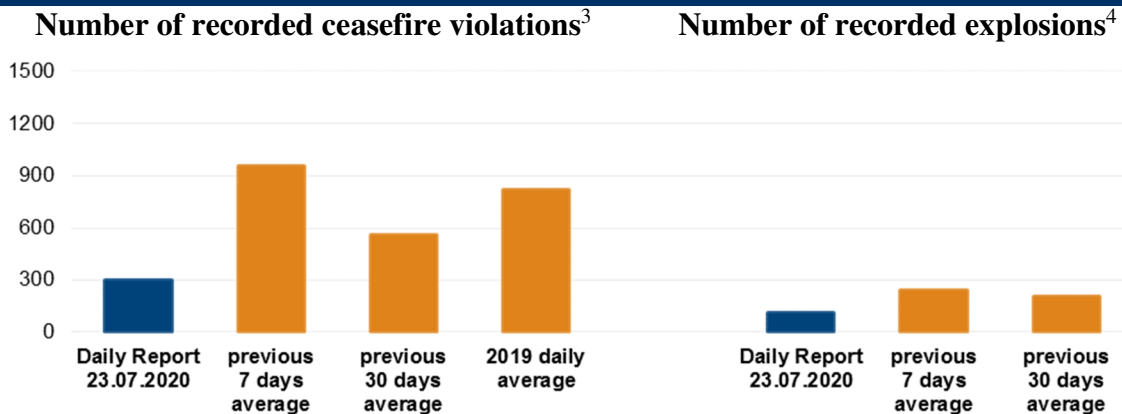
Daily Report 174/2020

23 July 2020¹

Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and fewer in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, it saw people within former positions inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM followed up on a hostage situation in Lutsk, Volyn region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint near non-government-controlled Kremynets, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



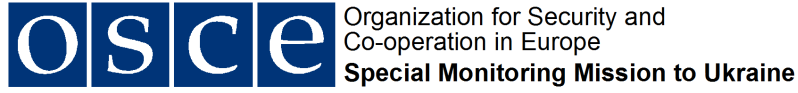
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 July 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske, in Krasnohorivka, near Shyrokyne and at the Oktiabr mine were not operational, and the SMM camera in Svitlodarsk was partially operational.

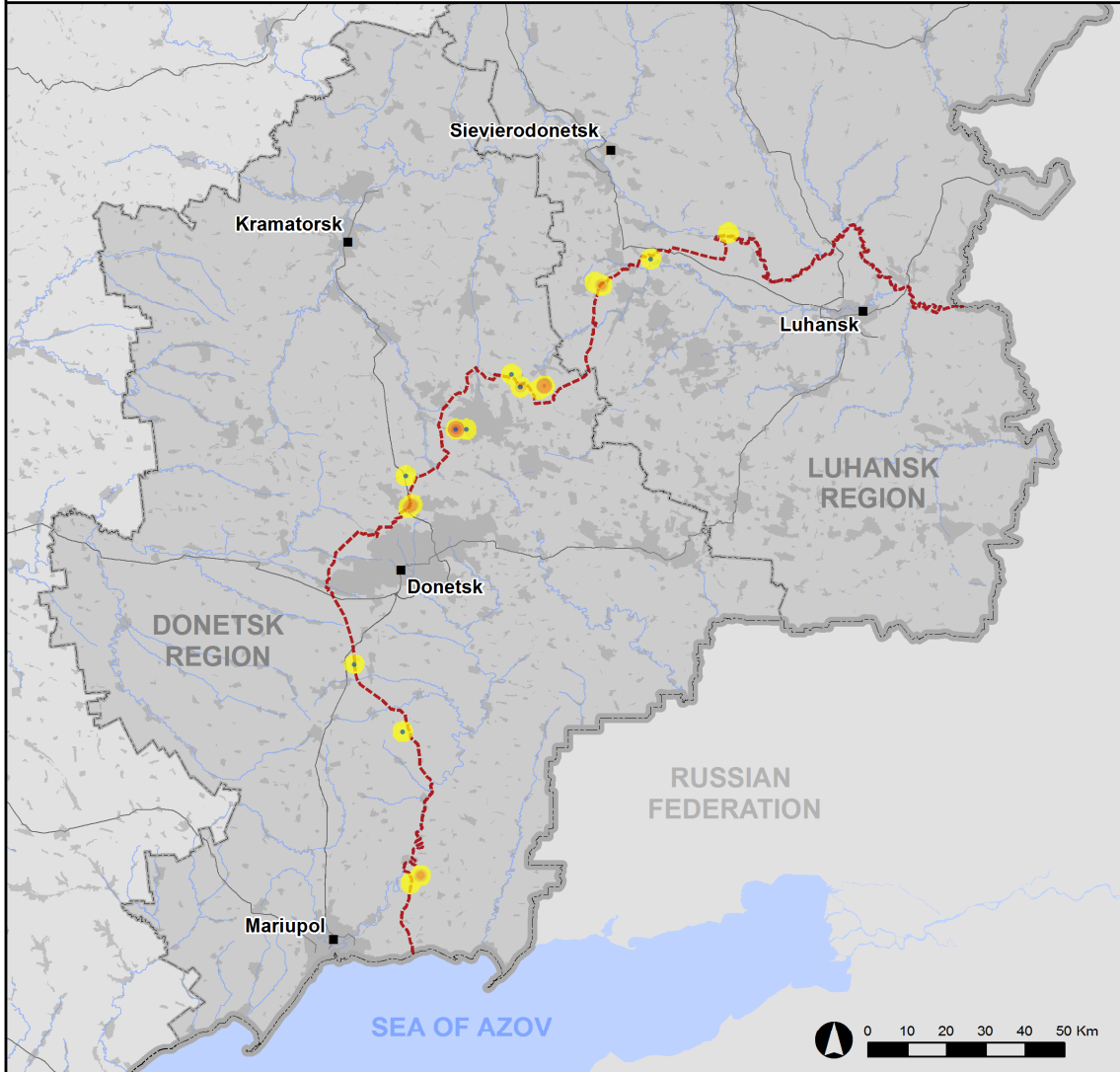
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

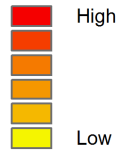
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 July 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

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Created: 23/07/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (about 110), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 90 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including almost all explosions, were recorded in areas west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) and at south-easterly and south-westerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (two), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (18 explosions). Almost all ceasefire violations were recorded at south-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 22 July, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw that vegetation had been cleared from both shoulders of a road about 300m north of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and that a worker from government-controlled areas was further clearing vegetation nearby (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 22 July 2020](#)).

On the same day, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and their checkpoint south of it.

On the evening of 21 July, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1km east of its western edge and 1km south of its northern edge. The same UAV also spotted two people near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 600m south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner.

On the night of 21-22 July, the SMM camera on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded two projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 3-5km east-south-east. On the same night, while on the northern edge of Popasna, the Mission heard 20 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 5-7km east-south-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 22 July, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission saw 12 members of the armed formations (nine wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them and three wearing hazmat suits), two of whom were walking along road T-1316 inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. About 350m north of the area’s southern edge, on road T-1316, the abovementioned three members wearing hazmat suits were seen spraying a disinfecting substance from a canister onto two SMM vehicles.

On the night of 21-22 July, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

person within a former position of the armed formations about 150m north-west of its south-eastern corner. The same UAV spotted two people within a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m east-north-east of its south-western corner.

On 22 July, while positioned about 500m north-west of Petrivske, the Mission heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-5km south-west and assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum. It saw three self-propelled howitzers in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

It also observed 71 weapons beyond respective withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in training areas in non-government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the tables below).

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁶

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in the security zone in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the assessment of and repairs to water infrastructure between government-controlled Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk) and Nyzhnie (56km north-west of Luhansk), and near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk).

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to power and gas lines in government-controlled Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk) and Troitske (69km west of Luhansk); the assessment and maintenance of power lines near non-government-controlled Berezivske (53km north-west of Luhansk) and Donetskyi (49km west of Luhansk); repairs to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk); vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); and demining activities near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about an hour, the SMM saw ten cars (one with Ukrainian and five with Russian Federation licence plates, as well as four with “DPR” plates), two buses with “DPR” plates, seven covered-cargo trucks (one with Ukrainian, two with Russian Federation and one with Belarusian licence plates, as well as three with “DPR” plates) and 18 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. The SMM also saw 14 cars (plates not visible), two buses with “DPR” plates and nine pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including one child) exiting Ukraine.

The SMM monitored areas along the border outside government control near Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk), Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk) and Kosharne (61km south-east of Donetsk) and observed a calm situation.

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter COVID-19 outbreak

In Donetsk region, the SMM saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not see any traffic in either direction. The Mission saw that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was operational and observed 14 civilians (mixed genders and ages, including five children) standing in the area of the EECP. The Mission noted that the checkpoints of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) and near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were staffed but did not see any traffic in either direction at either location. The SMM also saw that the EECP near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, at 09:00, the SMM noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska was operational. At 10:35, the Mission saw a coffin being transported from non-government- to government-controlled areas across the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge. The SMM also saw that a golf cart was operating between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

From 07:00 to 15:00, the SMM cameras at the parking lot south of the bridge and north of its new span recorded about 825 people traveling to government-controlled areas and about 520 people traveling in the opposite direction.

Hostage situation in Lutsk

The SMM followed up on a hostage-taking incident in Lutsk (137km north-east of Lviv) which occurred on 21 July. According to police representatives, the suspect is in custody and was charged with the criminal offences of taking hostages, unlawfully handling weapons, threatening the life of law enforcement officers and carrying out an act of terrorism as defined by articles 147 (part 2), 263 (part 1), 348 and 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. During an online briefing held on 22 July, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine shared information about actions taken by law enforcement agencies to diffuse the situation.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Package of Measures have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the Government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report of 14 July 2020](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westwards, without providing a reason.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:

- On 21 July, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Popasna (69km west of Luhansk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of several kilometers of the UAV's positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/07/2020	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Novokalynove (29km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/07/2020	22	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of about 40 armoured combat vehicles ⁸	Aerial imagery
	26	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	
	23	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	

Other weapons⁹

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/07/2020	23	Self-propelled artillery	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery
	16	Towed artillery		

Table of military presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/07/2020	12	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Zaitseve (62km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
22/07/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁹ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 July 2020¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km E	Recorded	23	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	21-Jul, 22:12
SMM camera in Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 00:29
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Recorded	9	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 23:48
	5-6km SE	Recorded	11	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 23:49
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Recorded	19	Projectile	E to W	N/K	21-Jul, 22:12
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	21-Jul, 22:50
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	3	Projectile	N to S	N/K	22-Jul, 01:38
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	15	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Jul, 22:12
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Burst	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 22:13
	3-5km SE	Recorded	45	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Jul, 22:13
	3-5km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Jul, 22:14
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Burst	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 23:49
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 12:01
About 500m NW of Petrivske (non-government-controlled,	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Jul, 10:23

¹¹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

41km S of Donetsk)							
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-3.5km W	Heard	73	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 04:45-05:38
	3-3.5km W	Heard	22	Burst		HMG	22-Jul, 04:45-05:38
	600m W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 04:45
	3-3.5km W	Heard	19	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 06:22-07:00
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 20:21
	4-5km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 20:45-20:50
	4-5km SW	Heard	8	Burst		HMG	21-Jul, 20:53-20:54
	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 20:53-20:54
	5-6km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 21:13
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km SSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 23:50
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	22-Jul, 00:24
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km ESE	Heard	20	Burst	Undetermined(assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	Small arms	22-Jul, 01:03-01:29
W edge of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km NNE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 13:06

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹²

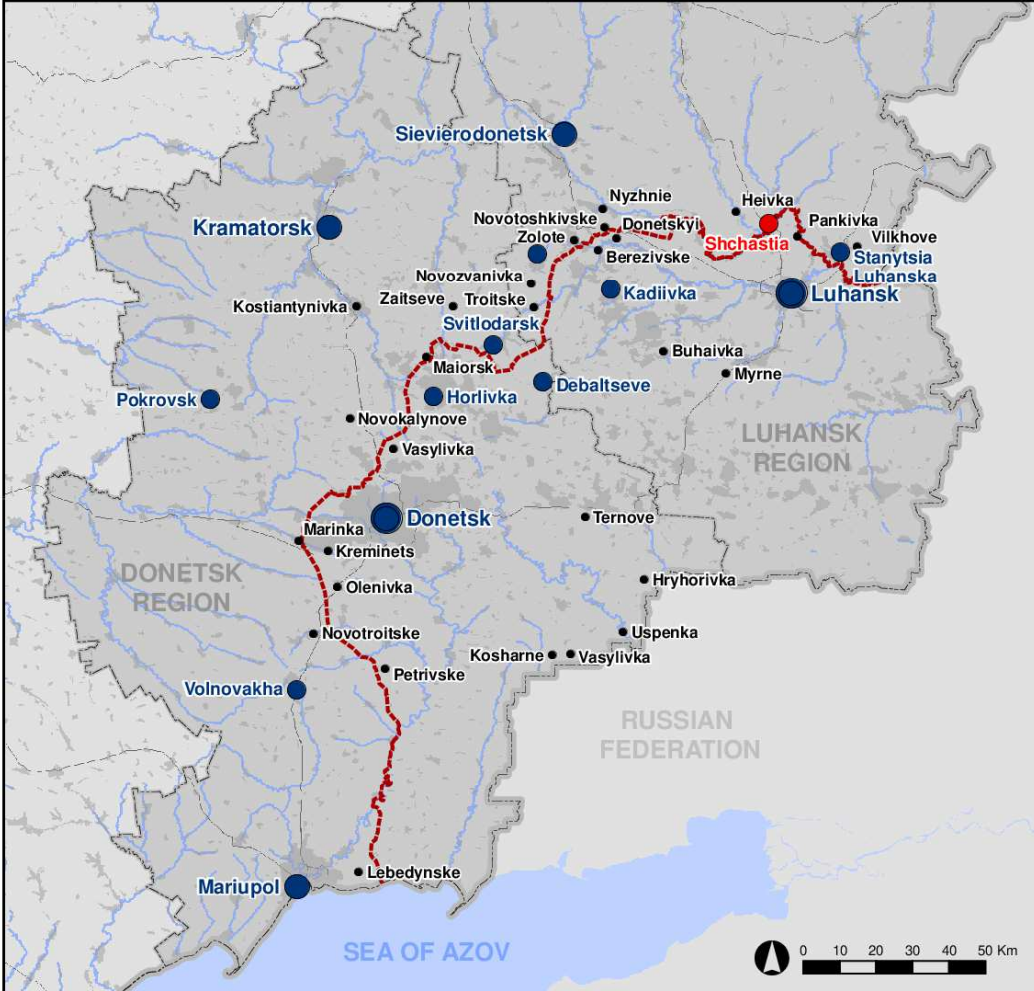
¹² The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs, and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff has temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Daily report noted settlements

23 July 2020



- Monitoring team / patrol hub
- Patrol hub
- Forward patrol base
- Staff temporarily relocated
- Noted settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: administrative boundaries - OCHA; roads, rivers - OpenStreetMap; sea - VLIZ (2005), IHO sea areas; other - OSCE.

Coordinate system: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

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