

Daily Report 203/2020

26 August 2020¹

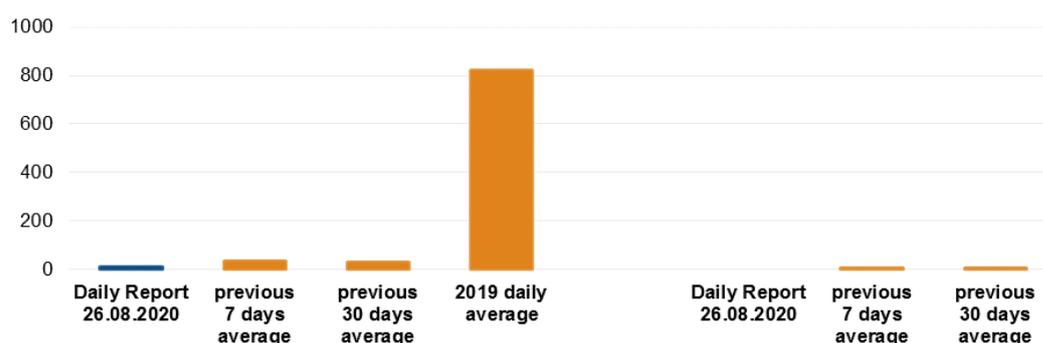
Summary

- The SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter disengagement areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at the entry-exit checkpoint and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission monitored peaceful public gatherings on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine in Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv and Odessa.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 August 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 and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

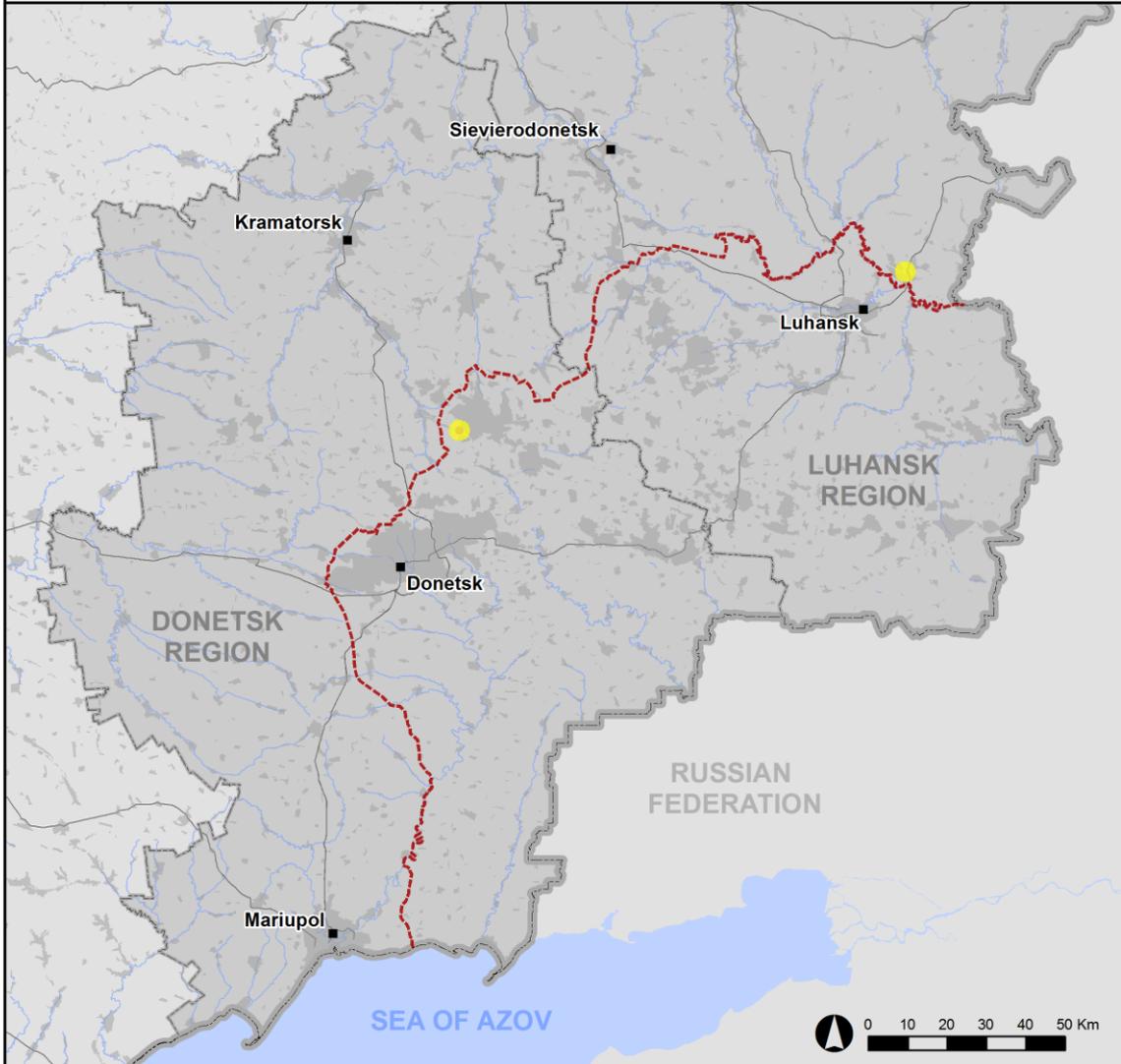
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

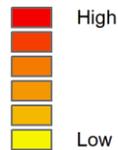


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 25 August 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

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 26/08/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded ten ceasefire violations, all shots of small-arms fire in areas south-west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded six ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one shot of small-arms fire near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) (see below). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 713 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 100 explosions, two projectiles in flight, nine illumination flares and 602 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On the evening of 24 August, while on the eastern edge of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**, the SMM heard one shot of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 500-600m west, assessed as outside of the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 25 August, inside the disengagement area, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and their checkpoint south of it.

On the night between 24 and 25 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, south of the railway track about 350m of road T-1316. Also inside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted two people near former positions of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of the area’s south-eastern corner.

During the day on 25 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom entered and walked about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returned.

On the same day, outside of the disengagement area, about 300m south of its southern edge, the Mission saw a worker with heavy construction equipment gravelling an area west of road T-1316, reportedly for a parking lot. On the opposite side of the road, the SMM saw eight workers with shovels and an excavator placing in the ground two draw-wells.

On 24 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted six people near a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 25 August, while positioned at three locations close to the disengagement area near Petrivske, the Mission observed a calm situation.

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

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum. The SMM spotted a mortar and three towed howitzers in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, all in violation of withdrawal lines. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites the Mission also saw a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the tables below).

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

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions as well as an anti-aircraft gun in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

On 23 August, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a trench extension (450m long) near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk) (not visible in the imagery from 7 June August 2020).

On 24 August, the SMM long-range UAV spotted trench extensions (in total 40m long) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) (not seen in imagery from 6 July and 12 July 2020).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations for construction works south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above) and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the Shchastia bridge (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to water infrastructure near government-controlled Pivdenne (40km north-east of Donetsk) and near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk); to a gas pipeline between non-government-controlled Zhovte (17km north-west of Luhansk) and Dovhe (22km north-west of Luhansk); maintenance, inspection and repairs to power lines near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora and in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (58km north-west of Luhansk); and railway track maintenance and vegetation clearance in government-controlled Vilkhove (22km north-east of Luhansk).

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities conducted by Ukrainian Armed Forces near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk). Positioned near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the SMM heard four explosions at an assessed range of 1-3km east-north-east, all assessed as controlled detonations. It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities on the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia and in the areas near government-controlled Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

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

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at about 13:00, the SMM saw in total 450 people (mixed genders and ages, including ten children) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 100 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 13:20 and 13:50, the Mission saw in total six people (three male and three female, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in total 30 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

At the EECP, six people (three women and three men, mixed ages) told the SMM that they had spent the night sleeping on benches near the bus stop since they could not demonstrate at the checkpoint of the armed formations that they live in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Throughout the day, the SMM saw one golf cart transporting people between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge as well as a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint of the armed formations and a bus stop about 1.8km south of the bridge.

Independence Day celebrations in Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv and Odessa

The SMM monitored peaceful public gatherings on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine in Chernivtsi (50 participants, mixed genders and ages), Kharkiv (300 participants, mixed genders and ages), Kherson (250 participants, mixed genders and ages), Lviv (3,000 participants, mixed genders and ages) and Odessa (150 participants, mixed genders and ages) (see also [SMM Daily Report 25 August 2020](#))

The Mission continued monitoring in Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Dnipro.

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. 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.

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 25 August, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).⁶

⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapon | Location | Source of observation |
|--|----------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 25/08/2020 | 3 | Towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm) in firing position | Near Krynychne (45km west of Luhansk) | Long-range UAV |
| 09/08/2020 | 1 | Probable mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm) | Near Dovhe (22km north-west of Luhansk) | Mini-UAV |

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapon | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 25/08/2020 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>) | Near Pryvilne (72km south of Donetsk) | Patrol |

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation |
|--|-----|---|--|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 23/08/2020 | 1 | Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) | Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV |
| | - | Trench extension (450m long) (not seen in imagery from 7 June 2020) | Near Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk) | |
| 24/08/2020 | 3 | Armoured combat vehicles (two BTR-70 and one undetermined) | Near Bila Hora (4km north of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) | | |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| | - | Trench extensions (in total 40m long) (not seen in imagery from 6 July and 12 July) | Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk) | |
| 25/08/2020 | 1 | Armed personnel carrier (BTR-60) | Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk) | Patrol |
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 09/08/2020 | 4 | Infantry fighting vehicles (three BMP-1 and one BMP-variant) | Near Dovhe (22km north-west of Luhansk) | Mini-UAV |
| 24/08/2020 | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk) | Long-range UAV |

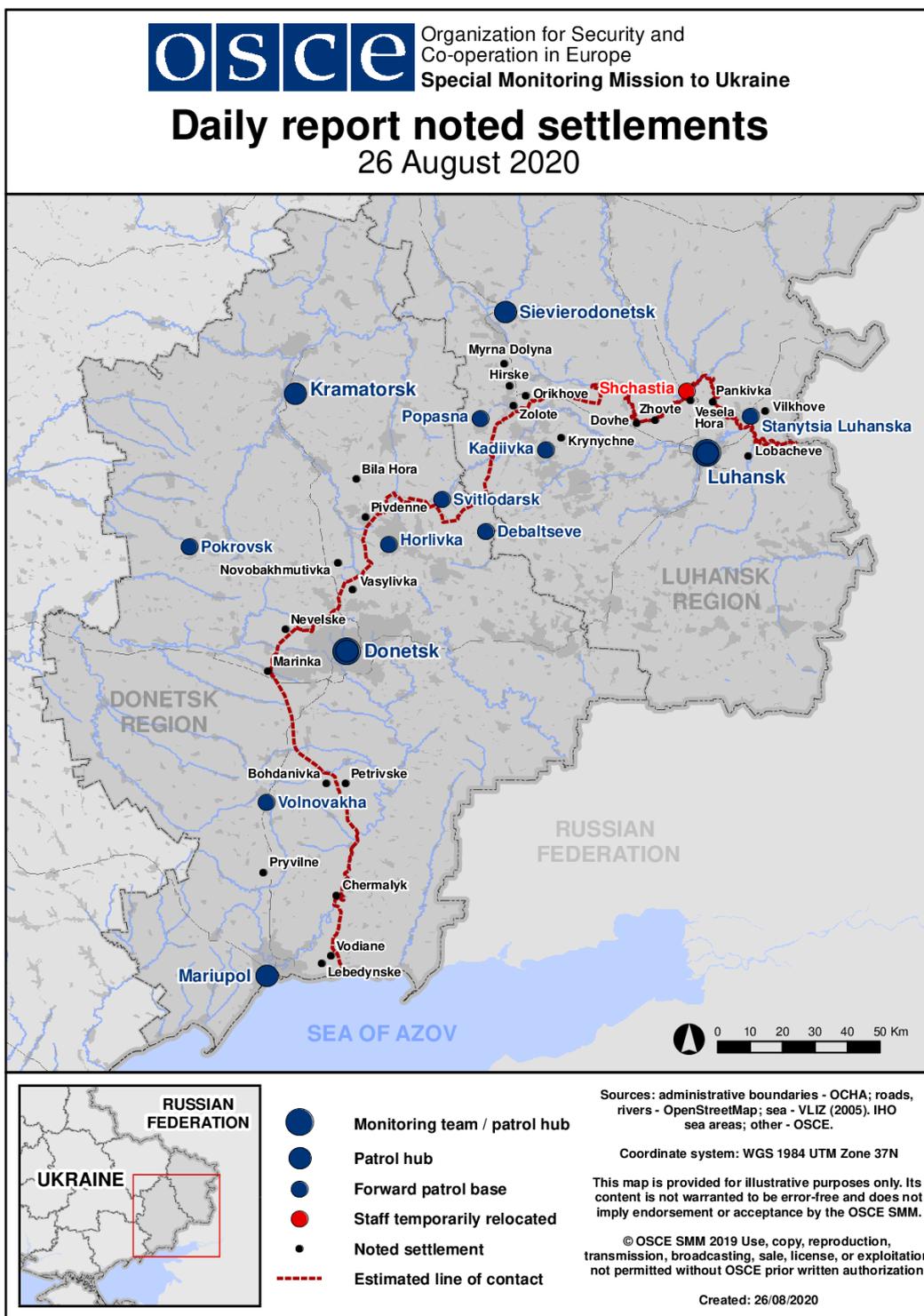
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 August 2020⁸

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|--|----------------|-------|-----|-------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk) | 2-3km WSW | Heard | 10 | Shot | | Small arms | 24-Aug, 20:38-20:50 |
| E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk) | 500-600m W | Heard | 1 | Shot | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | Small arms | 24-Aug, 20:10 |

⁸ 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.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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.)