

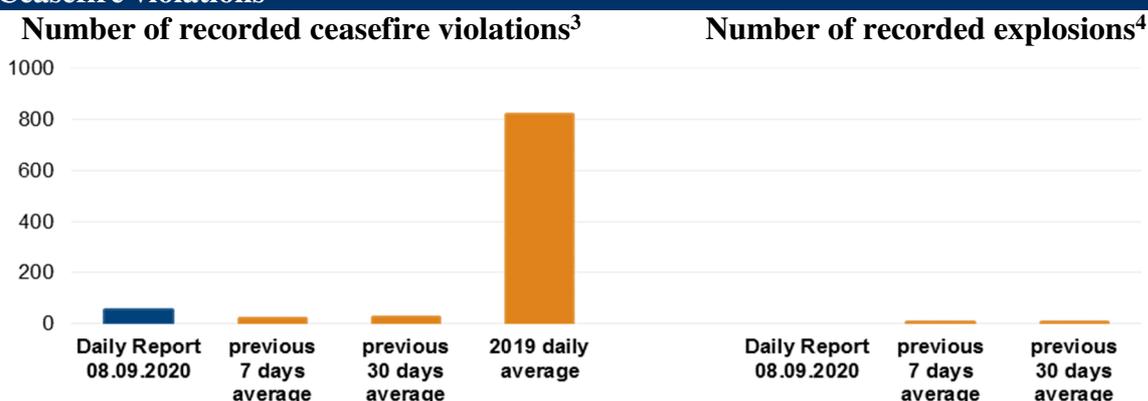
Daily Report 214/2020

8 September 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and 50 in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- Small arms were fired near SMM patrol members close to Peremozhne, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission spotted recent trench extensions near government-controlled Bohdanivka and non-government-controlled Pikuzy as well as a new trench near non-government-controlled Hryhorivka, all in Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation 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 of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border-crossing point outside government control near Voznesenivka, Luhansk region and at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



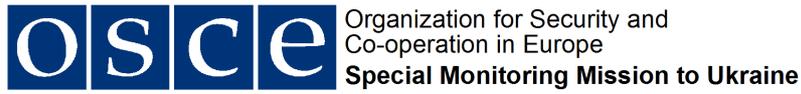
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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.

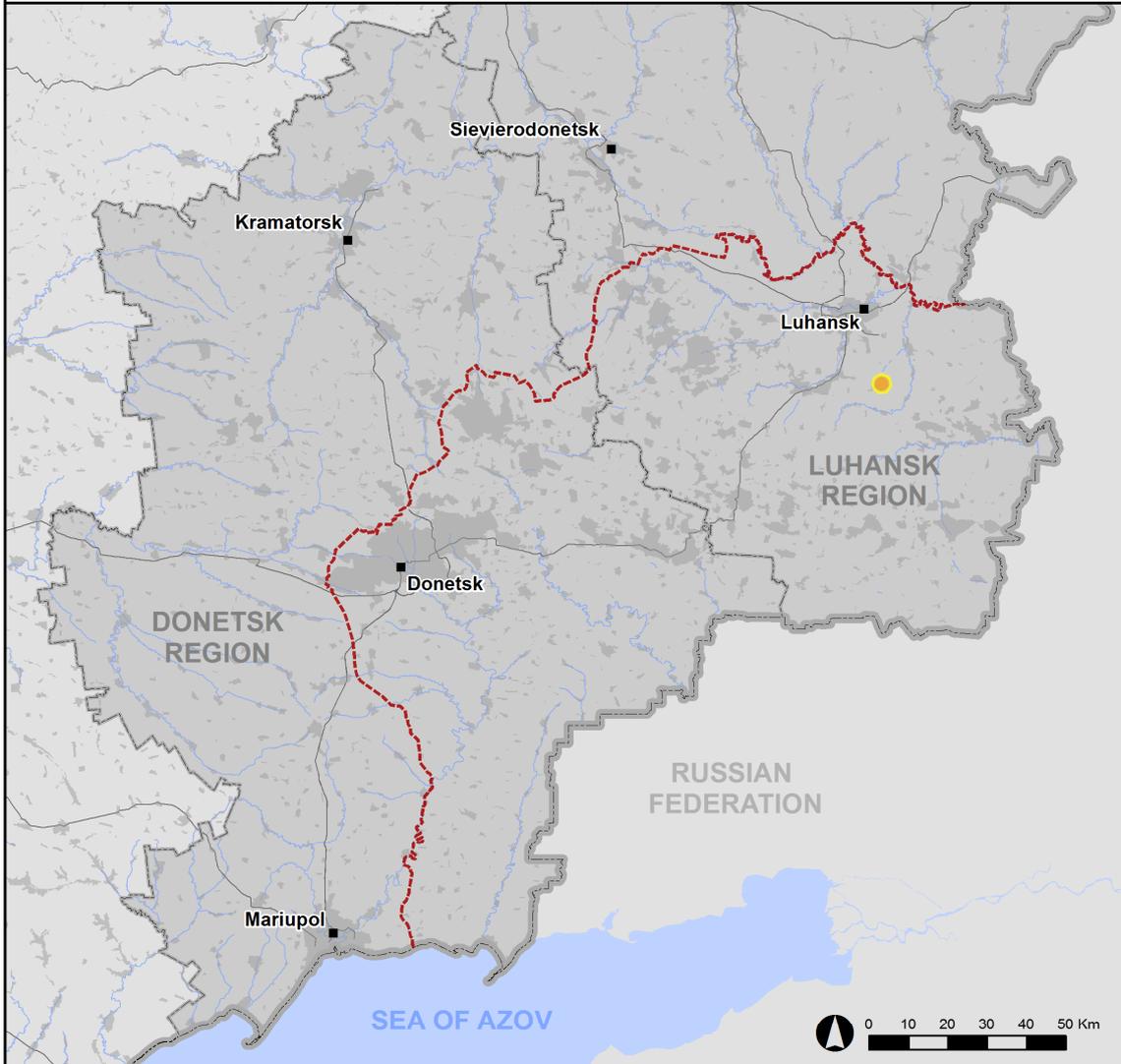
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

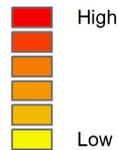
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 7 September 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.

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Created: 08/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous 24 hours](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

In Luhansk region, an SMM patrol recorded 50 shots of small arms fired in its close proximity in an area north-east of Peremozhne (non-government-controlled, 19km south of Luhansk), assessed as part of a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone (see below). During the [previous 24 hours](#), 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 1,000 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 173 explosions, two projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 812 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire close to SMM near Peremozhne

On 7 September, an SMM patrol positioned about 2.8km north-east of Peremozhne (non-government-controlled, 19km south of Luhansk) while preparing to conduct a mini-UAV flight over the airfield nearby⁵ heard 50 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 0.5-1km south-south-east, assessed as part of a live-fire training exercise. Patrol members also heard whistling sounds, assessed as caused by bullets flying about 15-30m above their heads, after which they immediately took cover between two SMM vehicles, and then left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 6 September, outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), about 300m north-east of the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) there and about 115m north of the area's northern edge, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted an infantry fighting vehicle in a residential area of the same settlement, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The same UAV [again](#) spotted a towed anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) under camouflage netting near the Prince Ihor monument south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (see table below).

During the day on 7 September, inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On the night of 6-7 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area's north-eastern corner.

On 7 September, outside the disengagement area, about 500m north of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint on its northern edge, the Mission saw workers with heavy construction equipment clearing vegetation and laying gravel on both sides of road T-1316.

On the same day, also outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the Mission saw workers from non-government-controlled areas with heavy

⁵ Formerly Luhansk International Airport.

construction equipment excavating, drilling, graveling and flattening road T-1316 and the adjacent areas. The SMM also saw workers from non-government-controlled areas clearing vegetation on both sides of a road about 400m east of the area's south-eastern edge.

Also on 7 September, the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) accompanied by two people wearing protective garments and two people carrying disinfecting equipment enter the disengagement area, walk up to 350m north of its southern edge and return.

Throughout the day, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area.

On night of 6-7 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner. The same UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations about 170m north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

During the day on 7 September, while positioned at four locations near the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

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 saw weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles, including in residential areas, on both sides of the contact line in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the table below).

On the night of 6-7 September, about 8km south-east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) and about 5.5km south-east of the south-western corner of the disengagement area near Petrivske, an SMM long-range UAV spotted an about 50m-long trench extension, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 16 August 2020).

On the same night, about 8km north-east of Novomykhailivka (government-controlled, 28km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a new position, comprised of an about 50m-long trench and firing positions, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, with two people inside (not visible in imagery from 14 July 2020).

Also on the same night, about 1km north of Hryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 68km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a new L-shaped trench (about 170m-

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

long) and defensive positions, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not visible in imagery from 4 August 2020).

On the evening of 6 September, about 6km southwest of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people, assessed as belonging to the armed formations, extending an existing trench using shovels.

On the night of 6-7 September, about 1.5km west-north-west of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk) and about 150m west-north-west of the forward-most positions of the armed formations near an industrial compound, an SMM long-range UAV spotted for the first time an about 70m-long trench running east to west (not seen in imagery from 31 October 2019). This trench is in between the most forward positions of the sides and an assessment on which side it belongs cannot be done as yet.

On the same night, on the south-eastern edge of the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre), an SMM long-range UAV spotted an existing trench with piles of earth on both sides of it, assessed as recently reinforced and belonging to the armed formations.

Similarly, on the western edge of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted a new about 150m-long trench extension of an existing trench, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not seen in the imagery from 4 August 2020).

On 7 September, near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw for the first time a temporary checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and an armoured personnel carrier parked nearby.

Presence of mines near Vesela Hora

On 4 September, about 2km north-east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), an SMM mid-range UAV [again](#) spotted four anti-tank mines laid in a single row across the western side of road N-21, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway maintenance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and Slovianoserbsk (28km north-west of Luhansk), as well as to enable demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

On 30 August, aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence of three military-type trucks parked on a paved road about 3.8km south-east of the border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), in an area adjacent to the international border with the Russian Federation.

On 7 September, while at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka for about ten minutes, the SMM observed no cross-border traffic. Upon arrival, a member of the armed formations told SMM to leave the area.*

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

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational.

While at the EECP near Novotroitske on three separate occasions between 08:53 and 15:00, the SMM saw a total of 59 people (mixed genders and ages, including four children), two cars and seven shuttle buses traveling towards non-government-controlled areas, as well as five cars and eight pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) traveling in the opposite direction.

While at the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), north of the EECP near Novotroitske, between 09:38 and 09:53, the SMM saw two cars traveling towards non-government-controlled areas and 16 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including two children) traveling in the opposite direction.

While at the checkpoint near Olenivka on two separate occasions between 08:46 and 15:00, the SMM saw a total of 40 people (mixed genders and ages, including two children) and 15 cars traveling towards government-controlled areas, as well as ten pedestrians and three empty buses queuing to travel in the same direction. The Mission also saw two pedestrians (a woman with a child), a car and two buses (one full of passengers, mixed genders and ages, and the second with tinted windows) escorted by a car of the armed formations traveling in the opposite direction.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the 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 08:50 and 11:20, the Mission observed in total 800 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 90 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

***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 below). 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.

Denial:

- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.
- At a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, citing the lack of preliminary agreement with those in control.

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:

- Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference during two separate flights, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near government-controlled Novoselivka (66km south of Donetsk) and Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of several kilometres of the UAVs' position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
06/09/2020	1	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	Near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
04/09/2020	3	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	Near Vesela Hora (16km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
06/09/2020	2	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Bohdanivka (44km west of Luhansk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
06/09/2020	1	Combat engineering vehicle (BAT-2)	Near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	In a residential area of Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	
07/09/2020	-	Trench extension (50m long) (not seen in imagery from 16 August 2020)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	-	50m-long trench with firing positions (not seen in imagery from 14 July 2020)	Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	In a residential area of Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
04/09/2020	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Vesela Hora (16km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Armoured combat vehicle		
	6	Infantry fighting vehicle (four BMP-1 and two BMP-2)		
06/09/2020	-	70m-long trench (not seen in imagery from 31 October 2019)	South-western edge of Kashtanove (13km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	-	170m-long trench (not seen in imagery from 4 August 2020)	Near Hryhorivka (68km south of Donetsk)	
	-	150m-long trench extension (not seen in imagery from 4 August 2020)	On the western edge of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, 92km south of Donetsk)	
06/09/2020	1	Towed anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near the Prince Ihor monument south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

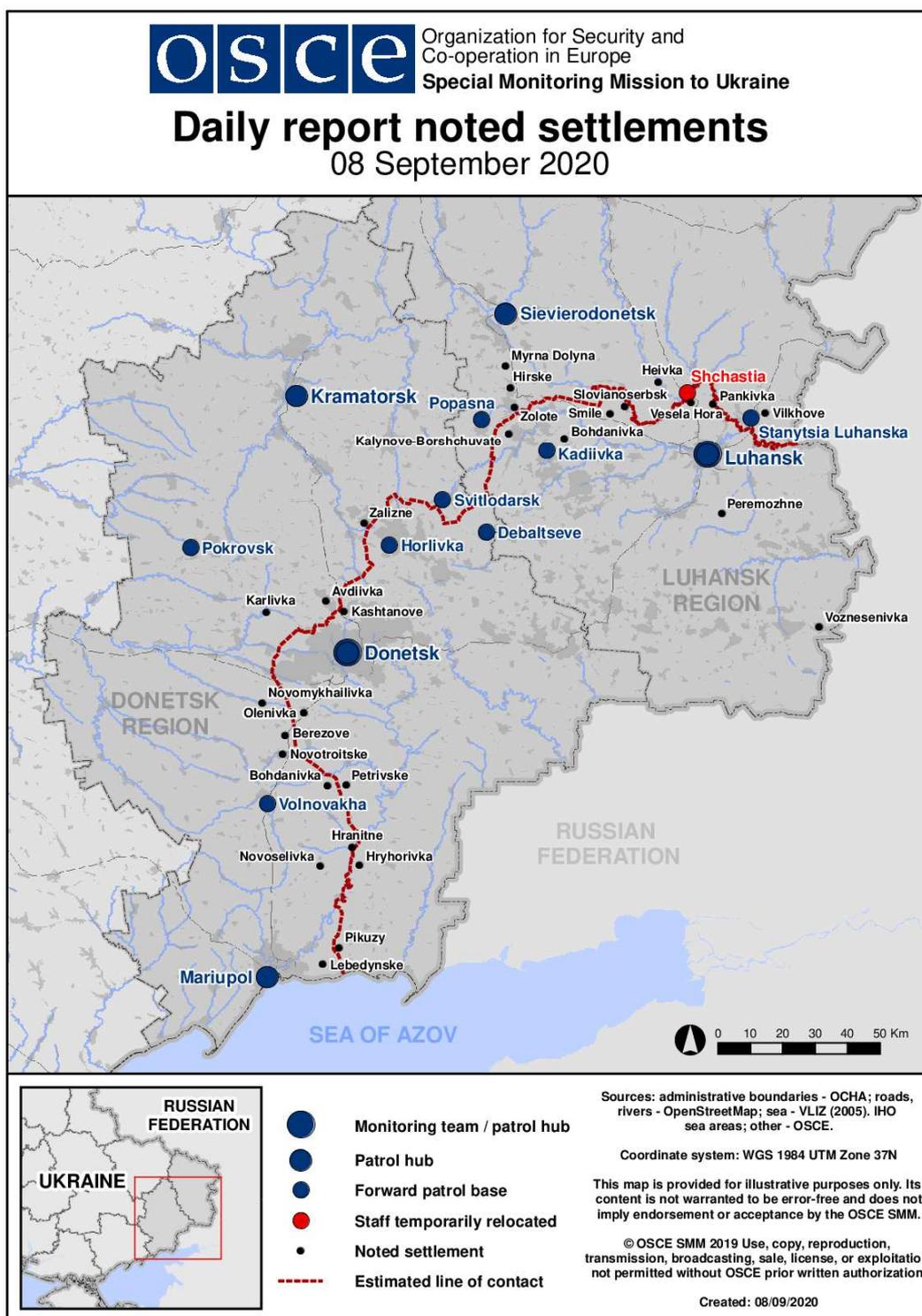
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 7 September 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
2.8km NE of Peremozhne (non-government-controlled, 19km S of Luhansk)	0.5-1km SSE	Heard	50	Shot		Small arms	7-Sep, 12:00

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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.)