

Daily Report 220/2020

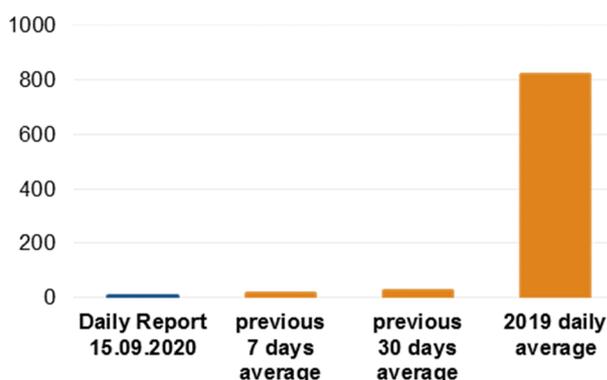
15 September 2020¹

Summary

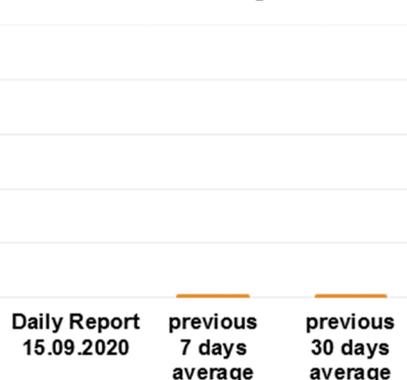
- The SMM recorded four ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded none in Donetsk region and seven in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at border crossing points outside government control near Izvaryne and Sievernyi, Luhansk region, and at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 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, Svitlodarsk and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

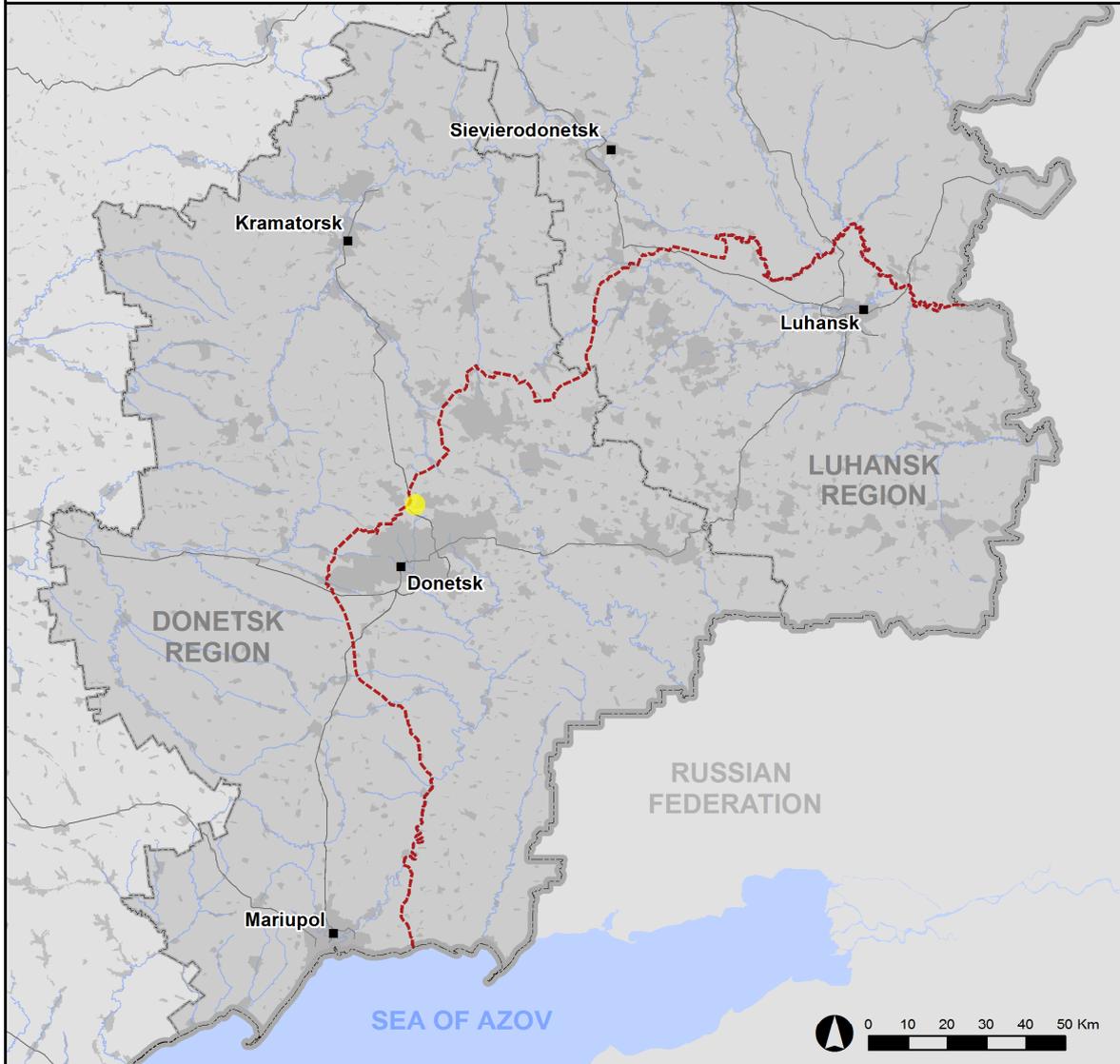
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

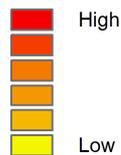


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 14 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: 15/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded four ceasefire violations, all shots of small-arms fire within a 5km radius of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). During the [previous 24 hours](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous 24 hours](#), it recorded seven ceasefire violations, all explosions.

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 1,037 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 189 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 826 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 14 September, while positioned in government-controlled areas of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On the evening of 12 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one person on the southern edge of Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), about 1km east-south-east of the area's north-western corner, and two people near its north-eastern corner.

On 14 September, the SMM saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near their checkpoint south of the disengagement area, two of whom, accompanied by three people in protective clothing, walked up to 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. The Mission subsequently saw two more members of the armed formations, also wearing armbands, walk up to the same point and then return.

On the same day, south of the disengagement area's southern edge, the Mission saw 28 workers from non-government-controlled areas with heavy construction equipment conducting works on both sides of road T-1316. The SMM observed that, along the construction site, ten concrete electrical poles had been installed on the western side of the road and seven more had been installed on the opposite side. Additionally, it observed that an area west of road T-1316 had been asphalted, assessed as reportedly in preparation for a parking area.

On the evening of 12 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one person about 1.5km and another about 500m east-north-east of the area's south-western corner. It also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

During the day on 14 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 beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including in a residential area (for further details, see the table below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in the security zone on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, as well as in an area of government-controlled Luhansk region (for further details, see the table below).

Presence of mines near Starohnativka, Donetsk region

On 13 September, east of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV [again](#) spotted four anti-tank mines laid in a row across a road leading to Bila Kamianka (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work 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 bridge in Shchastia.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), including to support access to agricultural land.

The SMM also continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS and to monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk). While positioned about 1km north-west of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard four ceasefire violations within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Border areas outside government control

While at the border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for ten minutes, the SMM saw 71 cars (including 19 with “LPR” plates) and four pedestrians (two men and two women in their forties) queuing to exit Ukraine. After five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

While at the pedestrian border crossing point near Sievernyi (50km south-east of Luhansk) for ten minutes, the Mission observed no traffic in either direction. Upon the SMM's arrival, a member of the armed formations told it to leave the area.*

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

In Luhansk region, on 14 September, 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 10:30 and 11:30, the SMM saw in total 850 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 50 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

In Donetsk region, the SMM saw 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 from 09:00 to 11:45 and from 12:45 to 15:00, the SMM observed seven cars, five buses and 34 people (mixed genders and ages, including two children) entering government-controlled areas. The Mission also observed 14 cars, five buses (with about 100 people in total, mixed genders and ages) and 118 people (mixed genders and ages, including three children) traveling towards non-government-controlled areas.

While at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka between 08:44 and 12:00, and between 13:25 and 15:00, the SMM observed eight cars, a bus and 43 people (mixed genders and ages, including nine children) entering government-controlled areas. The Mission also observed seven cars and 53 people (mixed genders and ages, including three children) traveling towards non-government-controlled areas.

At the same checkpoint, a member of an international organization told the SMM that since 14 September, rapid COVID-19 tests had been offered at a fee to travellers entering non-government-controlled areas through this checkpoint, as an alternative to the 14-day quarantine. Two people (women in their forties and fifties) traveling from government-controlled areas told the Mission that they had taken the tests, which had been performed by medical staff at the checkpoint, adding that they had no prior knowledge that this option would be available and had expected to be put in quarantine upon arrival to non-government-controlled areas.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, Odessa, 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, 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-operation (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.

Denials:

- On 14 September, at the border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.
- On the same day, at the border crossing point near Sievernyi (non-government-controlled, 50km south-east of Luhansk), a member of armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.
- Also on the same day, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas, referring to a lack of permission from his superiors.

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 two separate occasions, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over non-government-controlled areas near Hryhorivka (68km south of Donetsk) and near Pervomaiske (59km south of Donetsk).⁶

⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
12/09/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In a compound near a residential area in Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
12/09/2020	7	Tank (five probable T-72 and two type undetermined)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	
	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	10	Tank (type undetermined)		
	3	Towed howitzer (probable D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
11/09/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (probable BTR-70)	Near a residential area in Trokhizbenka (32km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
12/09/2020	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
13/09/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
12/09/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

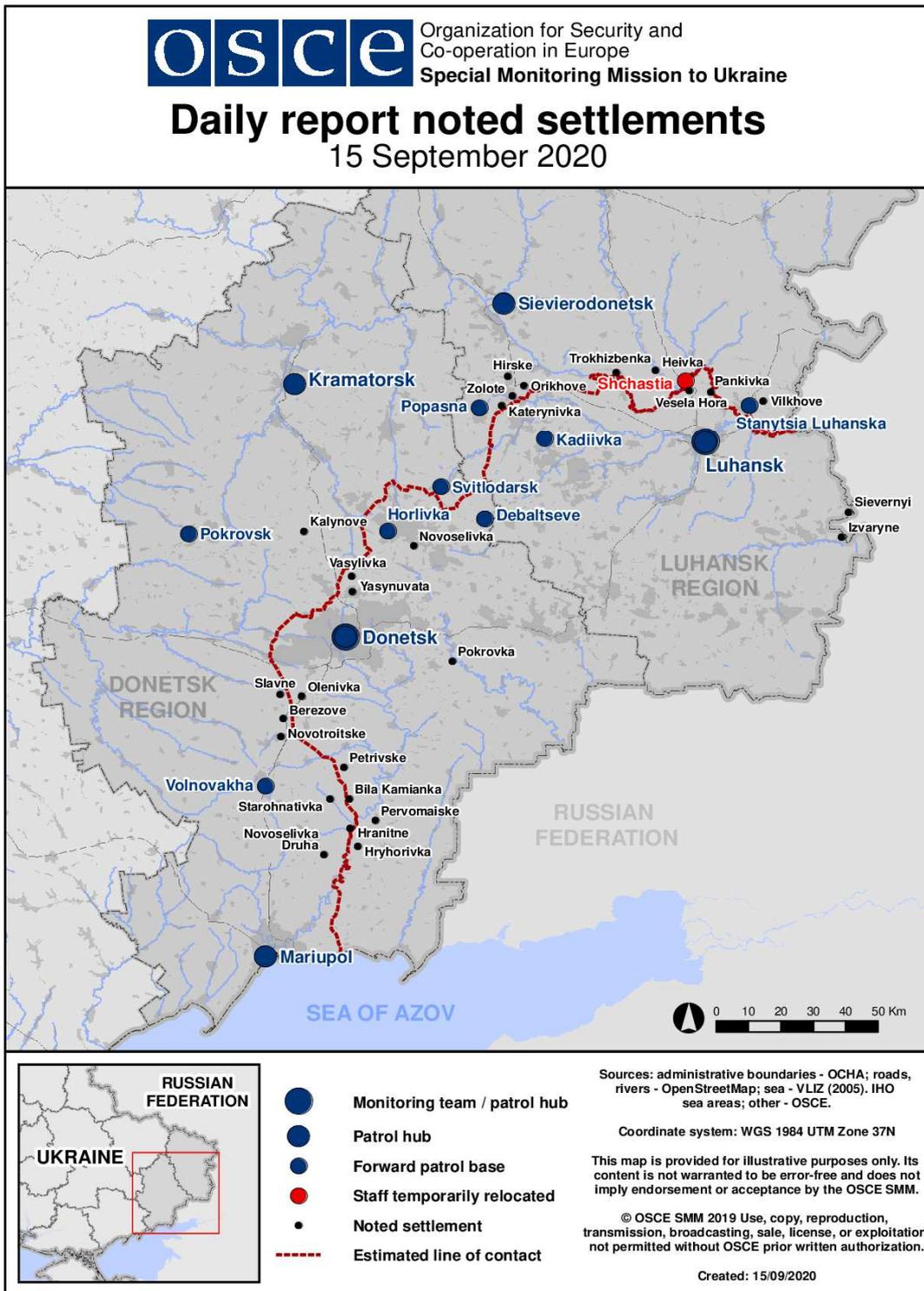
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 14 September 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	14-Sep, 09:16

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.)