

Daily Report 224/2020

19 September 2020¹

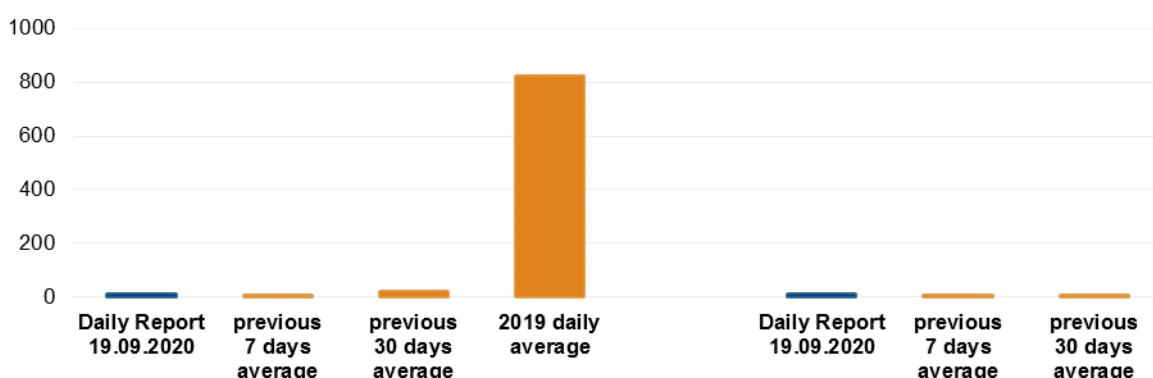
Summary

- The SMM recorded 12 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The SMM followed up on reports that a man died from the detonation of an explosive device in non-government-controlled Rozkishne, 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 Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at entry-exit checkpoints and checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka and Olenivka, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



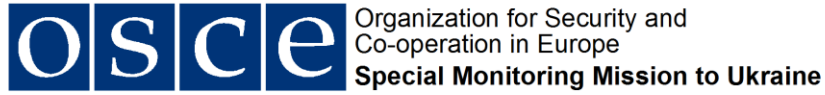
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 18 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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.

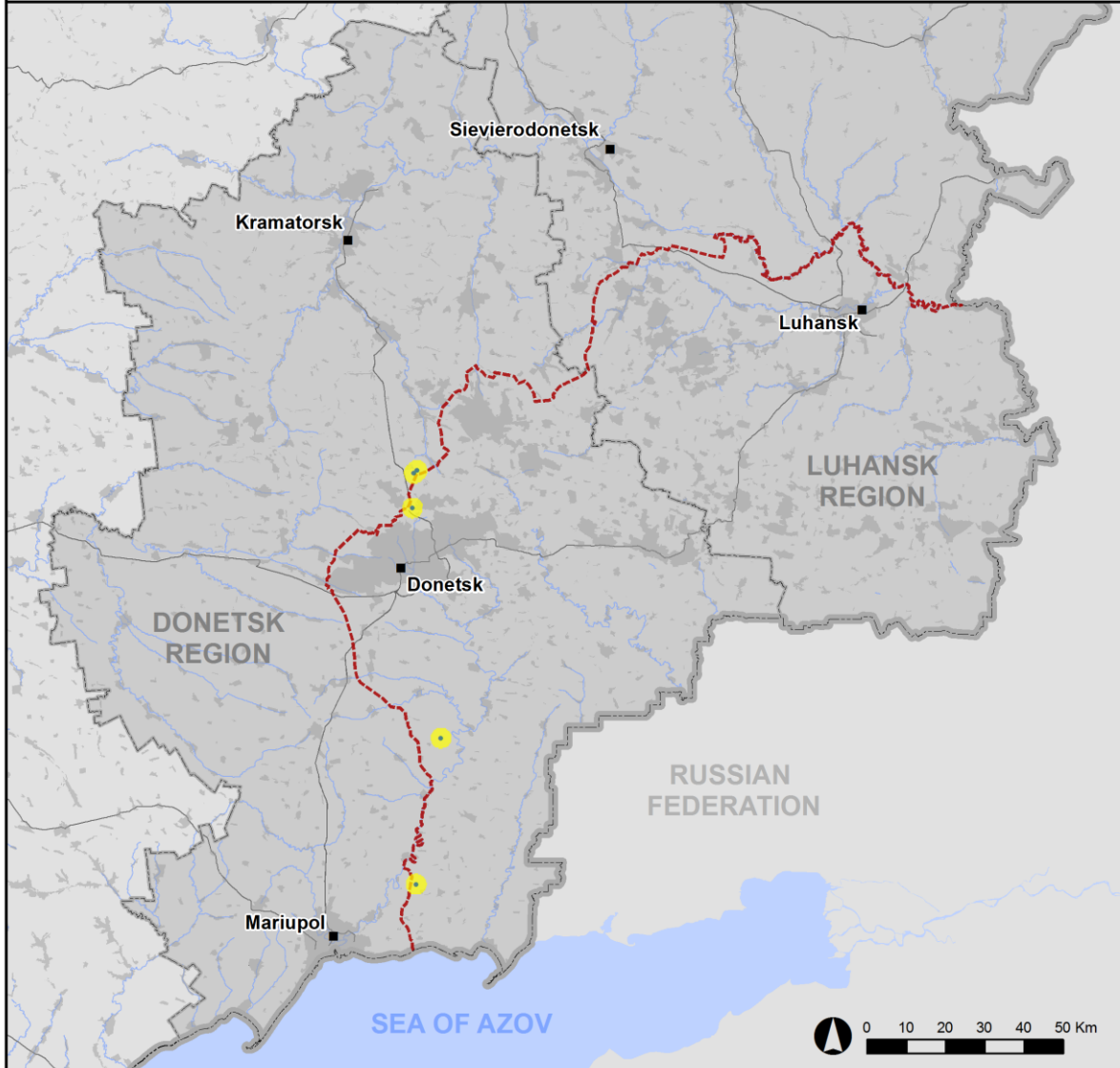
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

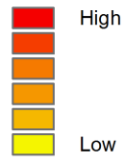
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18 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: 19/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 12 ceasefire violations (all undetermined explosions, including one assessed as within a 5km radius from the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (DFS)). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded two ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it also recorded none. The last time the SMM recorded a ceasefire violation in Luhansk region (one explosion) was on 16 September (see [SMM Daily Report 17 September 2020](#)).

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 1,066 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 207 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 837 bursts and shots).

Man dies from detonation of an explosive device in non-government-controlled Rozkishne, Luhansk region

On 17 September, at 16 Richna Street, in the northern part of Rozkishne (non-government-controlled, 9km south of Luhansk), a 50-year-old man told the SMM that on the evening of 16 September, he had been smoking in front of his 41-year-old brother's apartment at the abovementioned address, when he heard an explosion from inside the house where his brother had been. Upon entering the apartment, he had found his brother dead, due to what he had assessed as fatal head injuries caused by a detonation of an explosive device. On the same day, staff (woman, age unknown) of a hospital in Lutuhyne (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Luhansk) told the Mission over the phone that on the night of 16 September, an ambulance had been called to the casualty's address but when it arrived there, the victim had already died. On 18 September, staff of a morgue (woman, age unknown) in Lutuhyne told the Mission that on the night of 16 September, the body of a dead man had been brought to the morgue from the casualty's address with serious injuries consistent with an explosion.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 18 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the night between 17 and 18 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces; one about 550m west-south-west of the area's north-eastern corner, and another one about 1km east-south-east from the area's north-western corner. The same UAV spotted a person at a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 650m south of the area's north-eastern corner.

During the day on 18 September, 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), three of whom, along with five other people wearing protective gear, walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the same day, about 500m south of the disengagement area's southern edge, the SMM saw about 15 workers gravelling and levelling a part of the western side of road T-1316.

On the evening of 17 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area's southern edge, about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner.

On 18 September, while positioned about 1.5km north of Petrivske, the SMM heard four undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 8-10km south-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area.

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 nine tanks beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas (all tanks) in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see table below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

At a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the eastern outskirts of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM saw a crane placing concrete blocks at the checkpoint.

Mine hazard signs in and near Novotoshkivske

On the southern edge of Novotoshkivske (government-controlled, 53km west of Luhansk), south of road T-1303, the Mission saw two billboards with mine hazard signs containing pictures of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of ammunition and information in Ukrainian language.

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 (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in government-controlled Vilkhove (22km north-east of Luhansk) and Popasna (69km west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance to a phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk), repairs to power lines in Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of

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

Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard an undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius from the station.

Border areas outside government control

At a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 30 minutes, the SMM saw nine cars (including five with “DPR” plates), two trucks with “DPR” plates, a van with “DPR” plates, and 13 pedestrians (seven women and five men, in their forties and fifties and one girl under 16 years old) entering Ukraine. It also saw ten cars (including seven with “DPR” plates), a truck with “DPR” plates, a van with “DPR” plates, two buses (with “DPR” plates, with about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 23 pedestrians (18 women and four men, mixed ages and one girl under 16 years old) exiting Ukraine.

At a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 20 minutes, the SMM saw no traffic in either direction.

At a border crossing point near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), for about 35 minutes, the Mission saw ten cars (including five with “DPR” plates), a truck, a van with “DPR” plates and seven pedestrians (all men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine and four cars (including two with “DPR” plates), a covered cargo truck with “DPR” plates and three vans with “DPR” plates exiting Ukraine.

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

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 9:30 and 10:15, the SMM saw in total 15 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 330 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.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 14:30, the SMM observed 10 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and three people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. It also saw two shuttle buses operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

In Donetsk region, at a checkpoint of the armed formations on the southern edge of Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), from 08:45 to 12:00 and from 13:40 to 15:00, the SMM saw in total 51 people (mixed genders and ages) entering non-government-controlled areas and 66 people (mixed genders and ages) travelling in the opposite direction.

The SMM saw that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was functional and saw nine cars, four buses and 92 people (mixed genders and ages) entering government-controlled areas as well as six buses, 11 cars and 119 people (mixed genders and ages), including a woman in a wheelchair, travelling in the opposite direction. At a bus stop south of Novotroitske, three women (in their fifties or sixties) told the Mission that 15 people had spent the previous night in a tent of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine near the EECP, after being denied entry to non-government-controlled areas at the checkpoint of the armed formations.

The SMM visited the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and saw that it was staffed but did not observe any traffic in either direction. The EECP remains closed to traffic.

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, 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, [SMM Daily Report 18 September 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 in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the Mission passage into the settlement, referring to lack of permission from their superior.
- 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 SMM passage towards government-controlled areas, without giving any 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:

- An SMM mid-range-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk).
- Two separate SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, on two occasions while flying over areas near Orikhove (government controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk) and once while flying over areas near Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk).⁶

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

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/09/2020	6	Tank (T-72)	In Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
18/09/2020	3	Tank (probable T-64)	At a train station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/09/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	5	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)		
18/09/2020	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Rozsadky (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
17/09/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

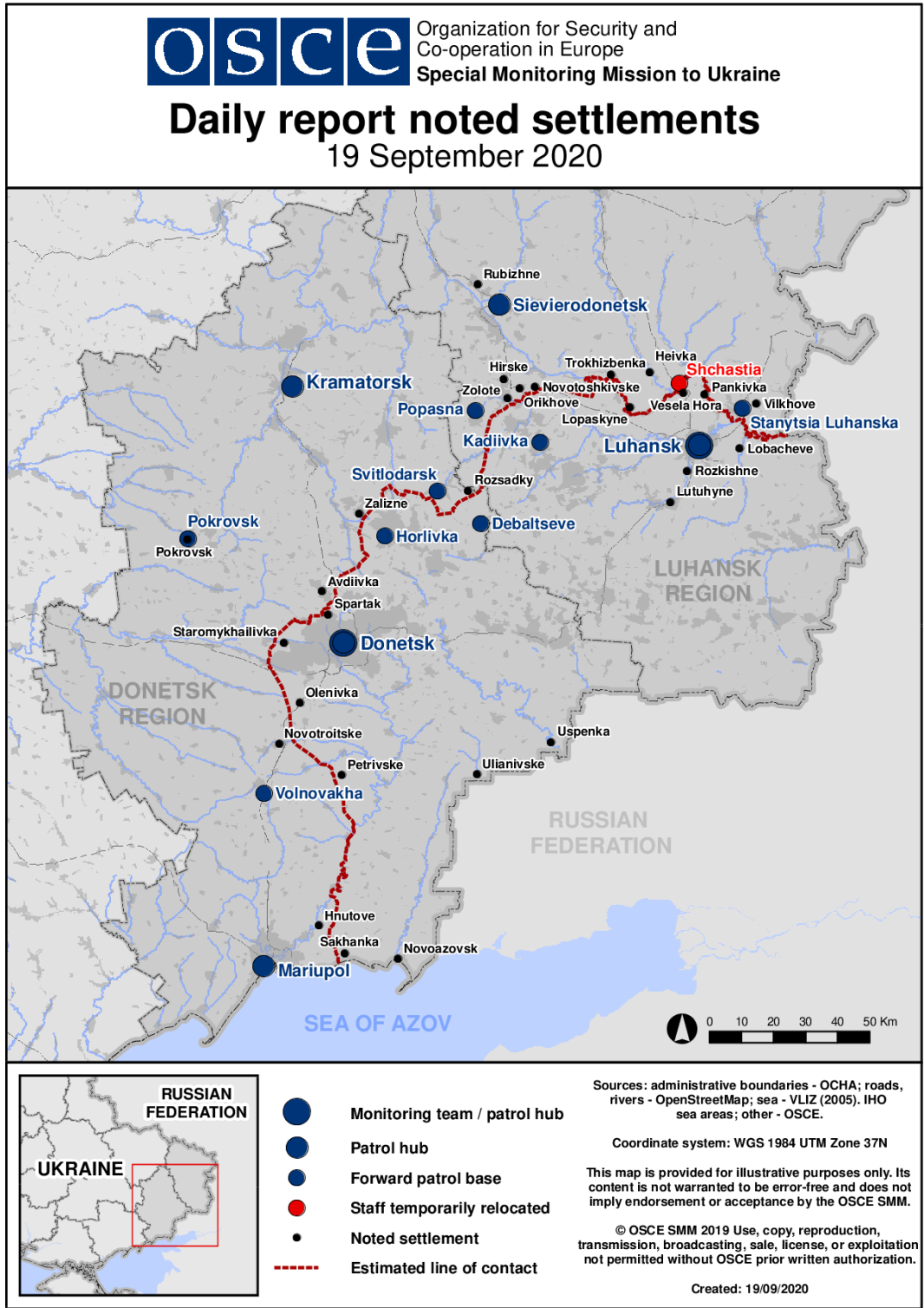
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 18 September 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.8km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	8-10km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Sep, 14:10-14:20
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 14:06
	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 14:15
	2-4km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 14:26-14:28
	2-4km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 14:37-14:38
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 10:40
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	5-7km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Sep, 09:58

⁸ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by 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.)