



# Daily Report 225/2020

21 September 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- Between the evenings of 18 and 20 September, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 12 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 18 and 20 September, the Mission recorded in total four ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including 21 multiple launch rocket systems.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka, Staromariivka, and Zaichenko, all in Donetsk region.\*

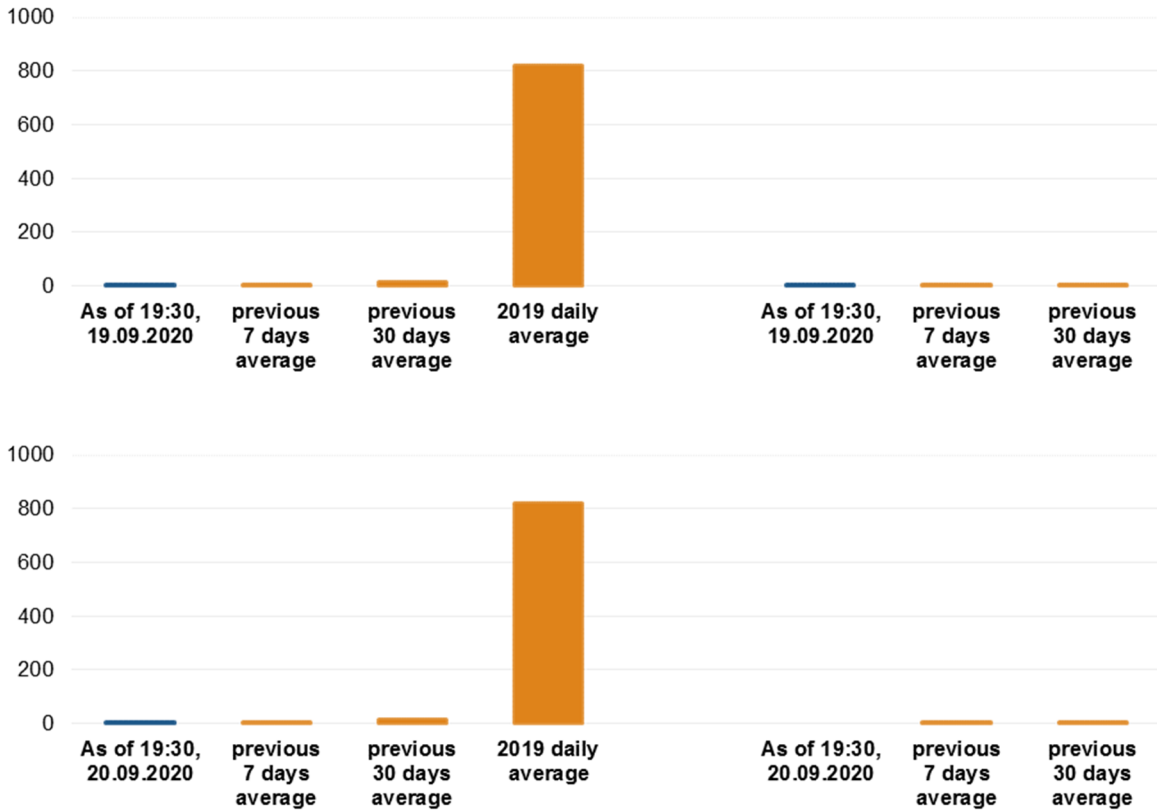
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<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

**Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>**

**Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>**

**Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>**



<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

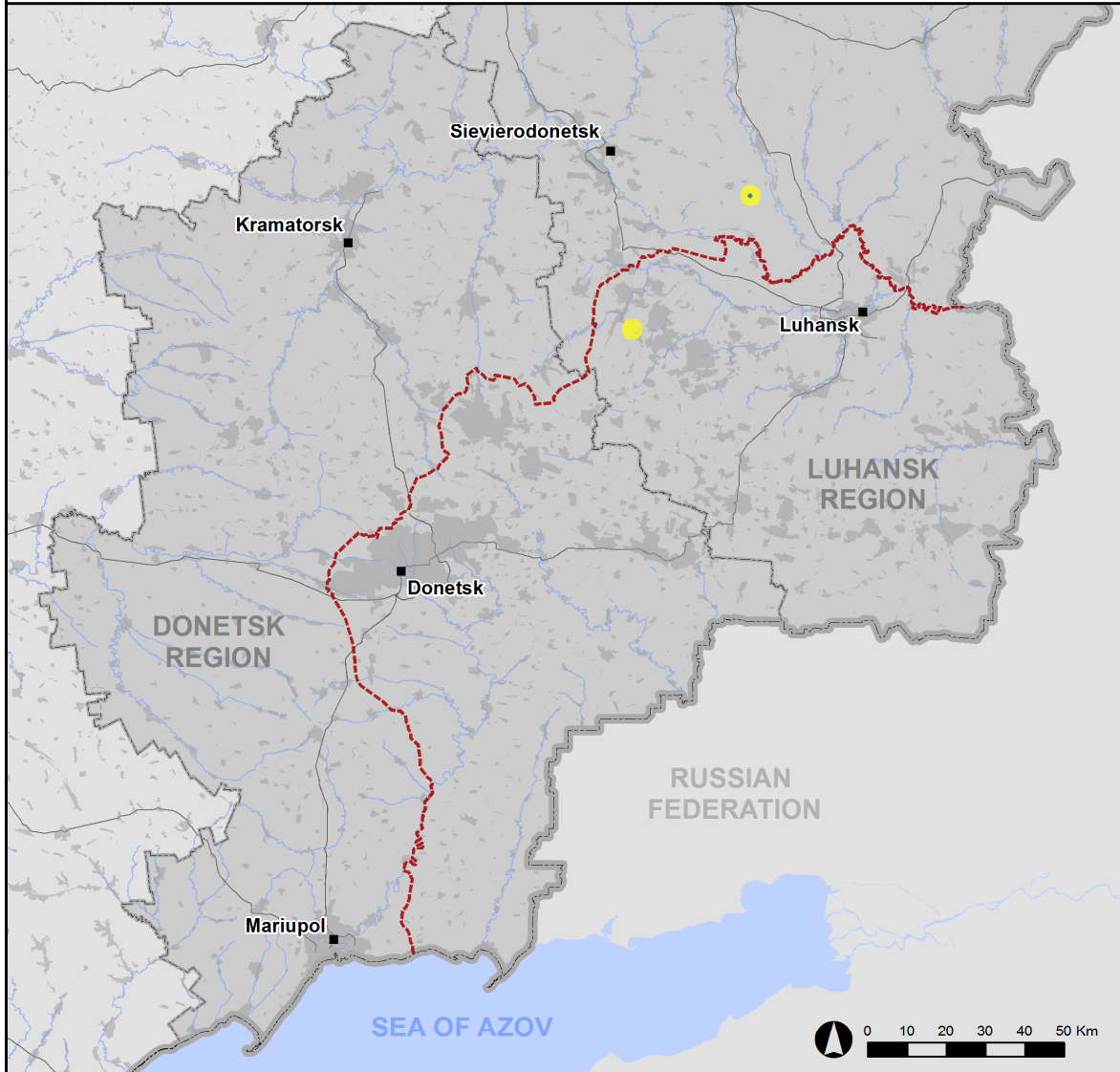
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

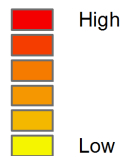


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19-20 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: 21/09/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 18 and 20 September, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 12 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 18 and 19 September, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations, both explosions in an area north of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission did not record any ceasefire violations in the region.

Between the evenings of 19 and 20 September, the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations, both shots of small-arms fire in an area south-west of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk).

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 1,070 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 209 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 839 bursts and shots).

#### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske**

On 19 and 20 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw 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 evening of 18 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted four people inside former positions of Ukrainian Armed Forces near the railway track, of whom one was about 1.2km, two were about 1.4km west of the area’s north-eastern corner, and one person near that corner. The same UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 19 and 20 September, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). On both days, it saw two of them walk inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

On 19 and 20 September, about 500m south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, the SMM saw workers with heavy construction equipment asphaltting road T-1316.

On the night between 18 and 19 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 about 550m east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner.

During the day on 19 and 20 September, while positioned at three 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw five tanks and 21 multiple launch rocket systems in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, respectively (for further information, see the table below).

## **Weapons storage sites**

*At two heavy weapons permanent storage sites in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region*

20 September

The SMM noted that one multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) and one self-propelled howitzer (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) were again missing, and that one towed howitzer (2A65 *Msta-B*, 152mm) was missing for the first time.

## **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>5</sup>**

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

## **Presence of mines near Zoloti Pisky and near Molodizhne**

On 18 September, about 3km south-east of Zoloti Pisky (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV [again](#) spotted 22 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, laid across both carriageways of an unfinished highway.

On 19 September, about 2.5km south-west of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk) and about 10m north of road T-0504, the SMM [again](#) saw an anti-personnel mine (MON-200), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

## **SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

On 19 September, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

On 19 and 20 September, 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), near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) and south of the bridge in Shchastia.

On 19 and 20 September, the Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove

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

(government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) and repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk).

On 20 September, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable a funeral at the cemetery in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).

On 19 and 20 September, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

### **Border areas outside government control**

On 19 September, while at a train station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM observed a locomotive with three oil tankers and over 40 cargo cars hitched to it, as well as over 40 cargo cars and three more oil tankers, all stationary.

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka, the SMM saw four pedestrians (two men and two women, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine. After ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

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

In Luhansk region, on 19 and 20 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.

On 19 September while at the EECP at about 9:20 and 12:30, the SMM saw in total 175 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas, and a total of 600 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 10:30, the SMM observed ten people (four men and six women, mostly elderly) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and four people (a man and three women, mostly elderly) queuing in the opposite direction.

On 20 September while at the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska at about 9:20 and 12:40, the Mission saw in total 95 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and the same amount (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 10:40, the SMM observed four people (a man and three women, mostly elderly) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and two people (women, both elderly) queuing in the opposite direction.

On 19 September at the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska, two men (in their forties and eighties) and a woman (in her sixties) told the Mission that they had spent six nights inside the disengagement area at a bus stop near the EECP waiting for documents from their relatives allowing them entry to non-government-controlled areas. On 20 September, at the same EECP,

a man (in his thirties) told the SMM that he had also spent the previous night at the same bus stop.

On both days, the Mission saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP and a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

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, 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.*

#### Denials:

- On 19 September, at a checkpoint of the armed formations about 7km east of Staromarivka (62km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, citing ongoing engineering works.
- On the same day, at the border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.
- On 20 September, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage to the settlement. The Mission observed three civilian cars (including two with "DPR" plates) passing through the checkpoint.
- On the same day in Trudivske (government-controlled, 47km south of Donetsk), three Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers (one of them visibly armed) denied the Mission passage into an agricultural compound.

#### Delay:

- On 19 September, at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage only after 25 minutes of waiting, referring to lack of permission from their superiors (for previous restrictions, see [SMM Daily Report of 19 September 2020](#)).

#### *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.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
18/09/2020	5	Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
20/09/2020	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
18/09/2020	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a military compound near a residential area of Druzhba (45km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novoselivka (31km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle		
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2) (assessed as non-operational)	Near Pisky (11km north-west of Donetsk)	
19/09/2020	7	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Trudivske (47km south of Donetsk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
18/09/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novohryhorivka (61km north-east of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		

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



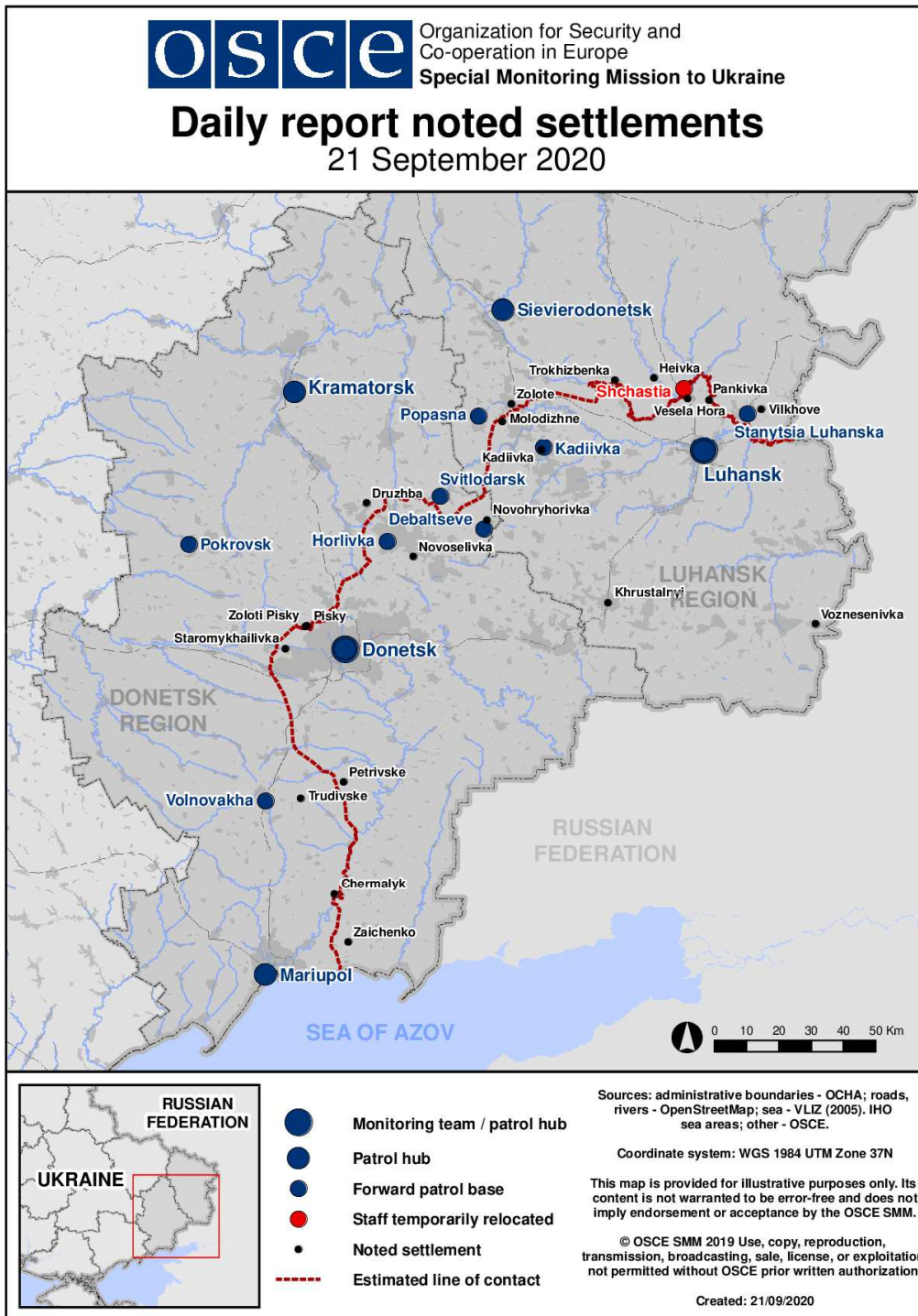
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 September 2020<sup>7</sup>**

<b>SMM position</b>	<b>Event location</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Date, time</b>
N edge of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km NW of Luhansk)	7-10km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Sep, 11:58
SW edge of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	2-4km WSW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	20-Sep, 12:02

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<sup>7</sup> 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 regions<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> 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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).