

Daily Report 239/2020

7 October 2020¹

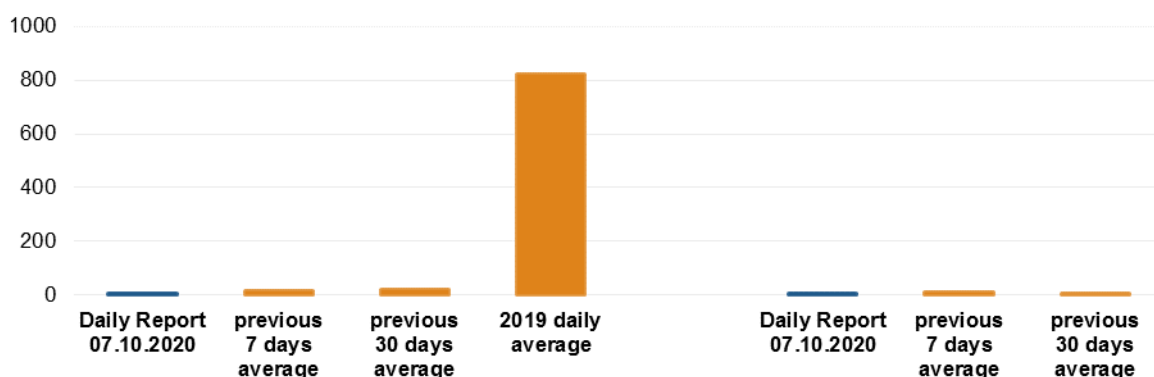
Summary

- The SMM recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded nine ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and five in Luhansk region.
- A woman and a boy were injured by the explosion of a device near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, 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 a person inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The SMM saw four weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.
- 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.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 6 October 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 camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions

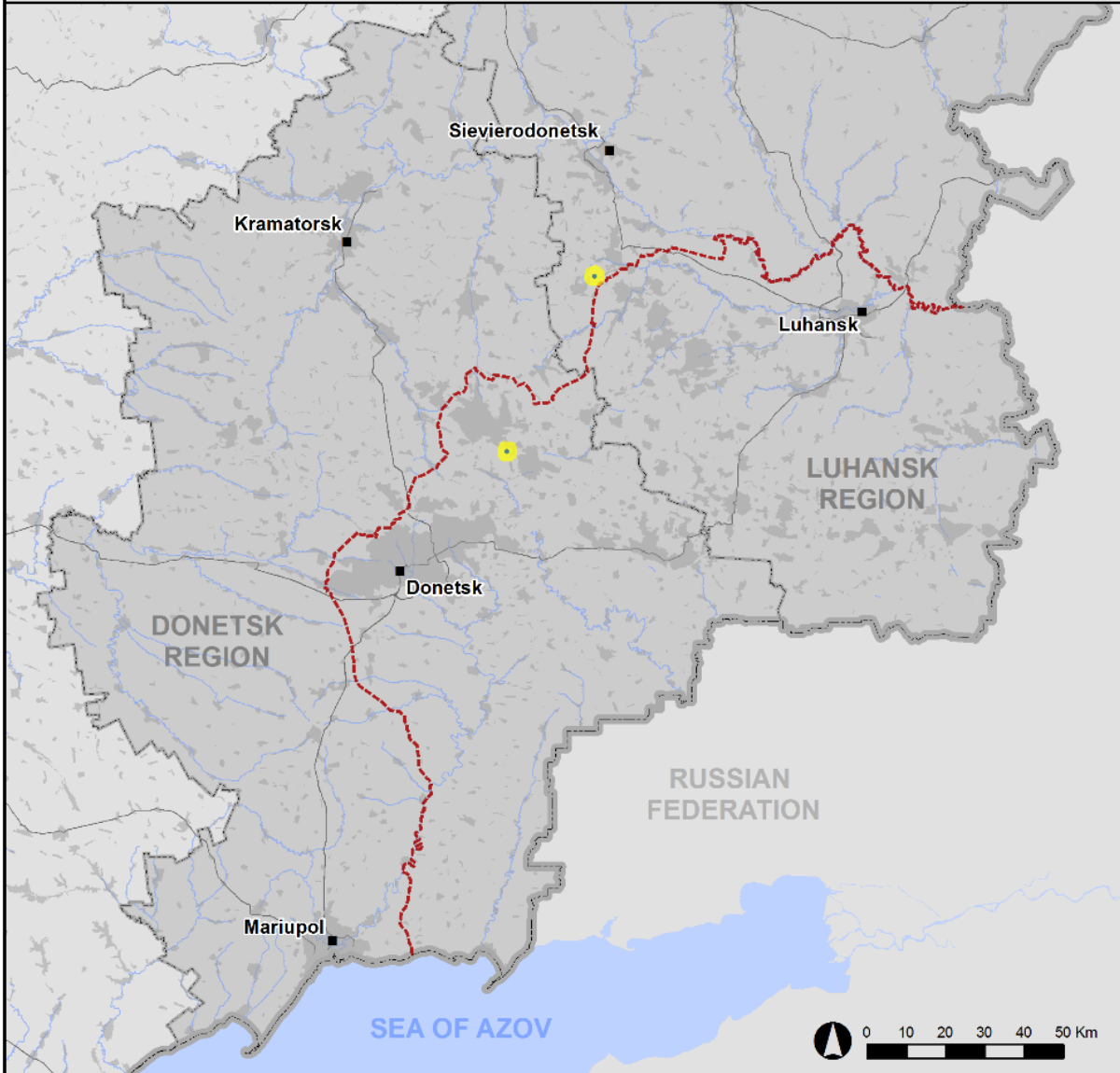
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 6 October 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low
- 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: 07/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations – all undetermined explosions in areas north-north-west of Staropetrivske (non-government-controlled, 35km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded nine ceasefire violations, including three explosions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded five ceasefire violations, including one explosion.

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 1,519 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 344 explosions, 17 projectiles in flight, three muzzle flashes, 18 illumination flares and 1,137 bursts and shots).

Woman and boy injured due to the explosion of a device near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a woman and a boy who sustained injuries due to the explosion of a device in a field near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).

On 6 October, a woman (in her forties) told the SMM by phone that on 28 September, she had been looking for her cow in a field near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, together with her son and daughter, when she stepped on an explosive device. She said that her left leg had been severely injured and had to be amputated below the knee, and that she had also sustained multiple injuries to her right leg. She added that her son had sustained injuries to his eyes, while her daughter had been unharmed. On the same day, the woman's sister told the Mission by phone that on 28 September, she had been informed about the incident by the woman's daughter and, after reaching the aforementioned field, had discovered her injured sister and nephew.

On 29 September, at a hospital in Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), medical staff told the SMM that on 28 September, a woman (in her forties) with injuries consistent with those caused by the blast of an explosive device had been admitted to the hospital and had been operated on. On the same day, at a hospital in Luhansk, medical staff told the Mission that a boy (11 years old) had been admitted on 28 September with injuries consistent with those caused by the blast of an explosive device and had undergone eye surgery.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 6 October, 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 night of 5-6 October, inside **the disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person near a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner. On the

same night, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-5km east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 6 October, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw seven members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the same day, about 200m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM saw 15 workers installing roofing over metal pillars, reportedly for a shelter and a bus station, on the western side of road T-1316.

On the same day, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission 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 three towed howitzers, as well as a probable piece of towed artillery, in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region and in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Anti-tank mines near Nyzhnie Lozove, Luhanske and the bridge in Shchastia

On 4 October, in fields near Nyzhnie Lozove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted a total of 225 anti-tank mines laid in several locations: 43 located about 2.5km west of the settlement; 122 in a field extending south-west towards road M-03, about 3.5km north-west of the settlement; as well as 60 about 2.5km south-west of the settlement. All of these anti-tank mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [12 August 2019](#), [4 September 2019](#) and [7 August 2020](#)).

On the same day, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 13 anti-tank mines laid in two rows across road M-03, about 3km south-east of Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 2 July 2019](#)).

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

On 5 October, about 2km east of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) and about 150m south-east of the bridge in Shchastia, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted 36 anti-tank mines laid in three rows across road H-21, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 16 September 2020](#)).

On 5 October, about 1.7km north of Petrivske and about 170m east of the road between Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and Petrivske, an SMM mini-UAV spotted that the [previously observed](#) transparent plastic bag filled with anti-personnel mines (assessed as PMN-2-type) lying on the ground was no longer present.

On 6 October, in a field about 300m west of Lohvynove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed for the first time two rounds of unexploded ordnance (UXO), assessed as 122mm artillery shells (assessed as not recent), about 15m east and west of road M-03.

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

About 200m north-west of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint north of the bridge in Shchastia, at the junction of road H-21 and road T-1309, the SMM observed ten workers digging soil with an excavator and placing asphalt blocks on either side of the road.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and Krasnyi Lyman (30km north-west of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote; vegetation clearance near the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk); inspection of overhead power lines near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk).

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

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission saw 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 09:30, the Mission saw 36 people (mixed genders and ages) entering government-controlled areas and 12 people (mixed genders and ages) traveling in the opposite direction. The SMM also saw 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 14:00, the Mission observed five people (four women and one man in their sixties and seventies) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and five people (women in their sixties and seventies) queuing in the opposite direction.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv, 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, see [SMM Daily Report 5 October 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.

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 weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
05/10/2020	3	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)	Near Krynychne (45km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Probable towed artillery (type undetermined)		

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

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
03/10/2020	2	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	North of the bridge in Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
05/10/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
05/10/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Dokuchaievsk (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1		Near Styla (34km south of Donetsk)	
	10	Infantry fighting vehicle (eight BMP-1 and two BMP-2)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	
	5	Armoured combat vehicle		
	3		In an industrial compound near Kalmiuske (formerly Komsomolske, 42km south-east of Donetsk)	

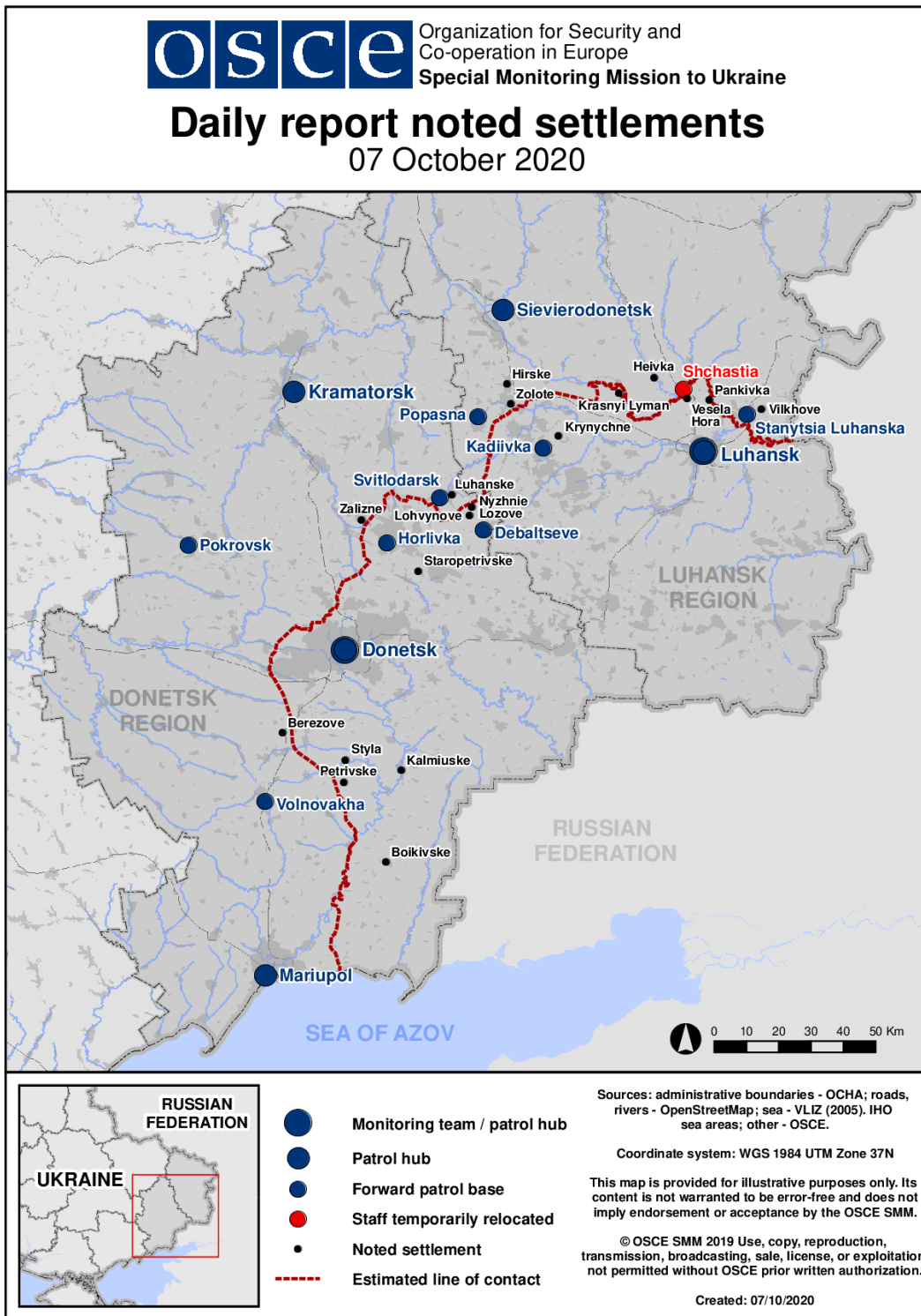
⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 6 October 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.5km N of Staropetrivske (non-government-controlled, 35km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NNW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Oct, 14:10
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	5-Oct, 23:18

⁷ 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 regions⁸



⁸ 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).