

Daily Report 271/2020

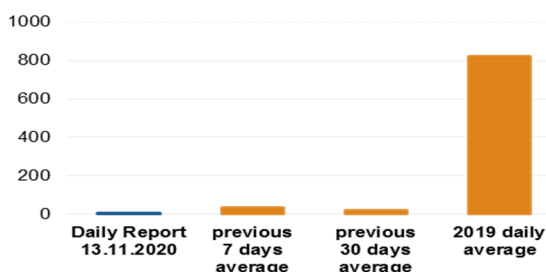
13 November 2020¹

Summary

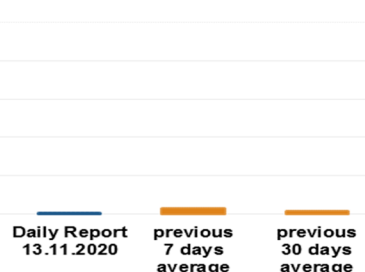
- The SMM recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and three in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 90 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and seven in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the disengagement area near Zolote, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle again spotted a stationary white container truck with JCCC written on its sides.
- The SMM observed a surface-to-air missile system near government-controlled Chernenko, Donetsk region, in violation of withdrawal lines.
- 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 pandemic.
- The SMM saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were operational. It also saw that the EECPs near Zolote, Shchastia and Marinka were operational and that the checkpoints of the armed formations near Zolote, Shchastia, Kreminets and Horlivka were closed.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



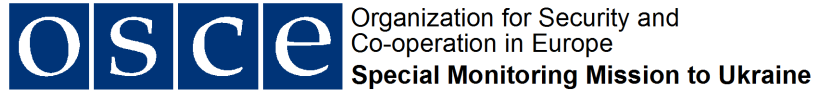
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 12 November 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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.

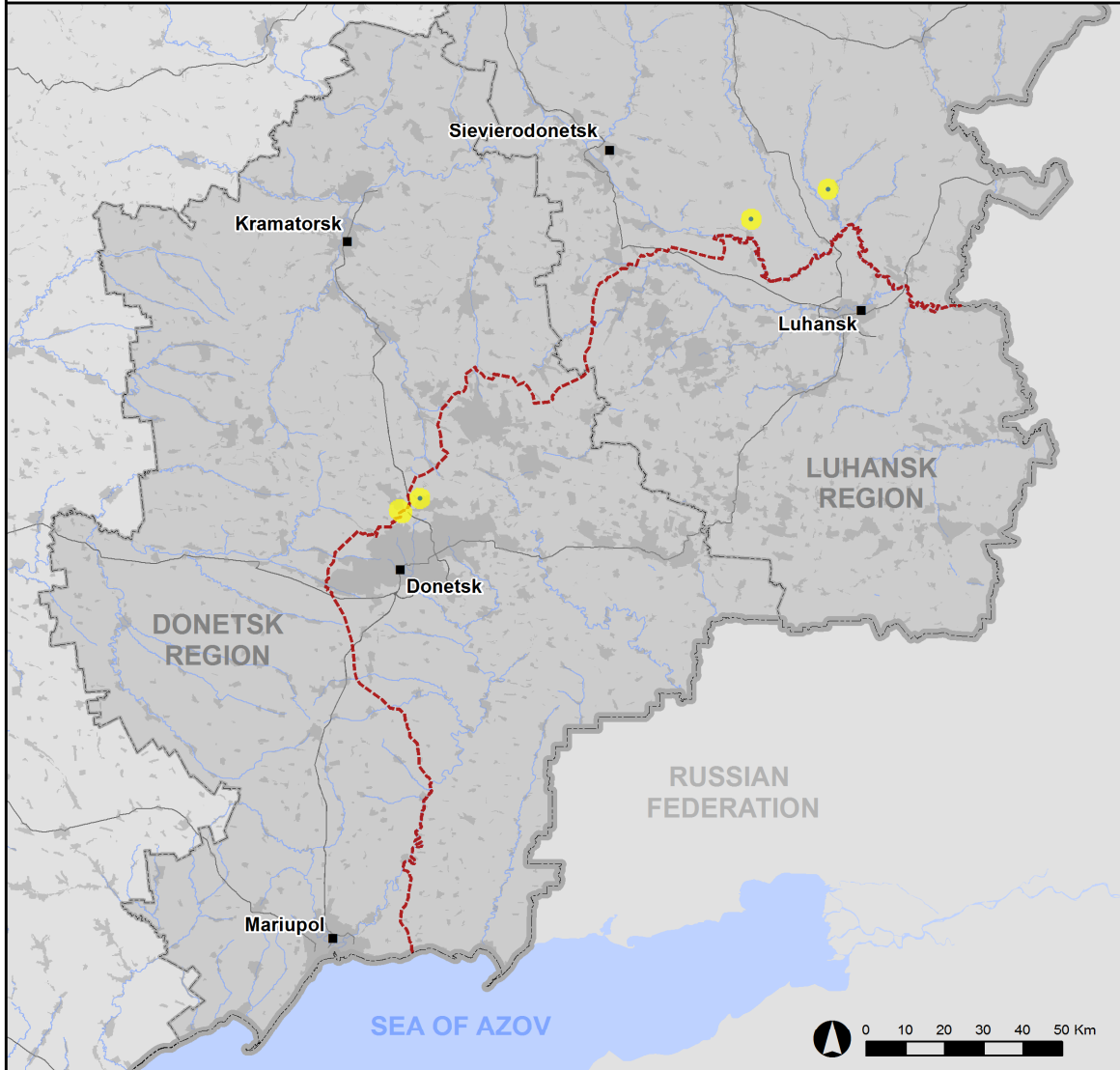
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

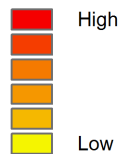
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 12 November 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: 13/11/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion, in areas near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In [the previous reporting period](#), it recorded 90 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations – two undetermined explosions in an area north of Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk) and one undetermined explosion in an area north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk). It assessed the latter explosion as a live-fire exercise inside the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region.

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 2,261 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 854 explosions, 45 projectiles in flight, 26 muzzle flashes, 26 illumination flares and 1,310 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw in total five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and south of the new span of the bridge.

On 11 November, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), north of the railway bridge on road T-1316, about 920m south of the area’s northern edge, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a stationary white container truck with JCCC written on its sides.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom it saw walk inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return, accompanied by three people wearing hazmat suits and facemasks.

On 12 November, 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, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a surface-to-air missile system near Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk).

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as two self-propelled anti-aircraft systems in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. It also observed an excavator which was digging in a field about 2.5km south of Styła (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and three people in military-type attire (one visibly armed) standing nearby (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of mines near Vodiane, Donetsk region

On 11 November, in a field about 1km south-east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 35 anti-tank mines laid in two rows running north to south, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 23 September 2020](#)).

On the same day, on road M-03, about 300m west of Lohvynove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission [again](#) spotted eight objects – six assessed as unexploded and two assessed as exploded rockets from a multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm). About 150m east of road M-03 and about 500m south-west of Lohvynove, the SMM saw for the first time two objects, assessed as tailfins of rockets from an MLRS (*Uragan*, 220mm), stuck in the ground. The Mission assessed all aforementioned objects as not new.

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

At the checkpoint of the armed formations, about 3km south-east of the bridge, the SMM observed about 25 workers with heavy equipment erecting a structure, assessed as a hangar for a power generator, as well as clearing vegetation and placing mine hazard signs.

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and near Krasnyi Lyman; repairs to power lines near Donetskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km west of Luhansk); maintenance of road H-21 south of Shchastia; and demining of agricultural fields near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. During the reporting period, it registered an undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the station.

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

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminecs (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), as well as the checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), were closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational. It also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia were operational but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations near Zolote and Shchastia remained closed.

While at the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska at about 8:45, 11:00 and 15:00, the SMM observed in total 120 people (mixed genders and ages, including 15 children) queuing to travel to government-controlled areas and in total 95 people (mixed genders and ages, including ten children) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

While at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge from 8:40-9:45, the SMM saw in total 18 people (nine women and eight men, mixed ages, and one child) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 27 people (12 women and 14 men, mixed ages, and one child) queuing in the opposite direction.

During its presence, the Mission saw a golf cart operating between the EECP and the new section of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, and noted that there was no shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint of the armed formations and a bus stop 1.8km south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

While at the EECP near Zolote from 8:00-14:30 and at the EECP near Shchastia at 7:50, the SMM observed no pedestrians or vehicles waiting to travel towards non-government-controlled areas.

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, 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 [SMM Daily Report 11 November 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 withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
11/11/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

Table of military presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
11/11/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Pyshevyk (84km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4, <i>Shilka</i> 23mm)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-2)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)	
12/11/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	3	Armoured combat vehicle (BTR-3)	Near Hnutove (90km south of Donetsk)	Camera

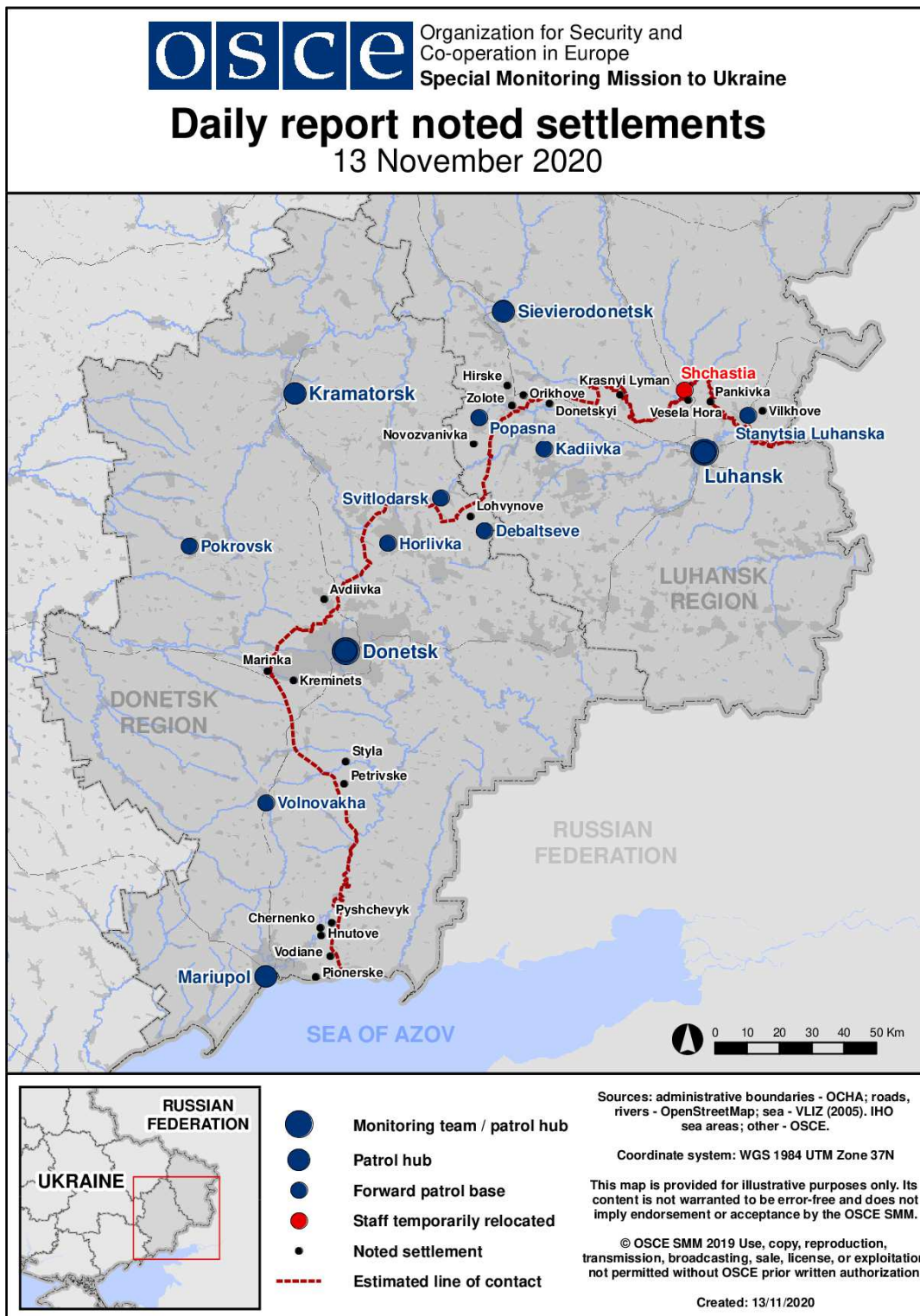
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 12 November 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-3km SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	12-Nov, 04:27
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	12-Nov, 04:28
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Nov, 08:54
E edge of Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km NW of Luhansk)	7-8km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Nov, 11:50-11:58
E edge of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km N of Luhansk)	12-15km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as live-fire exercise)	N/K	12-Nov, 12:52

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 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).