



# Daily Report 279/2020

23 November 2020<sup>1</sup>

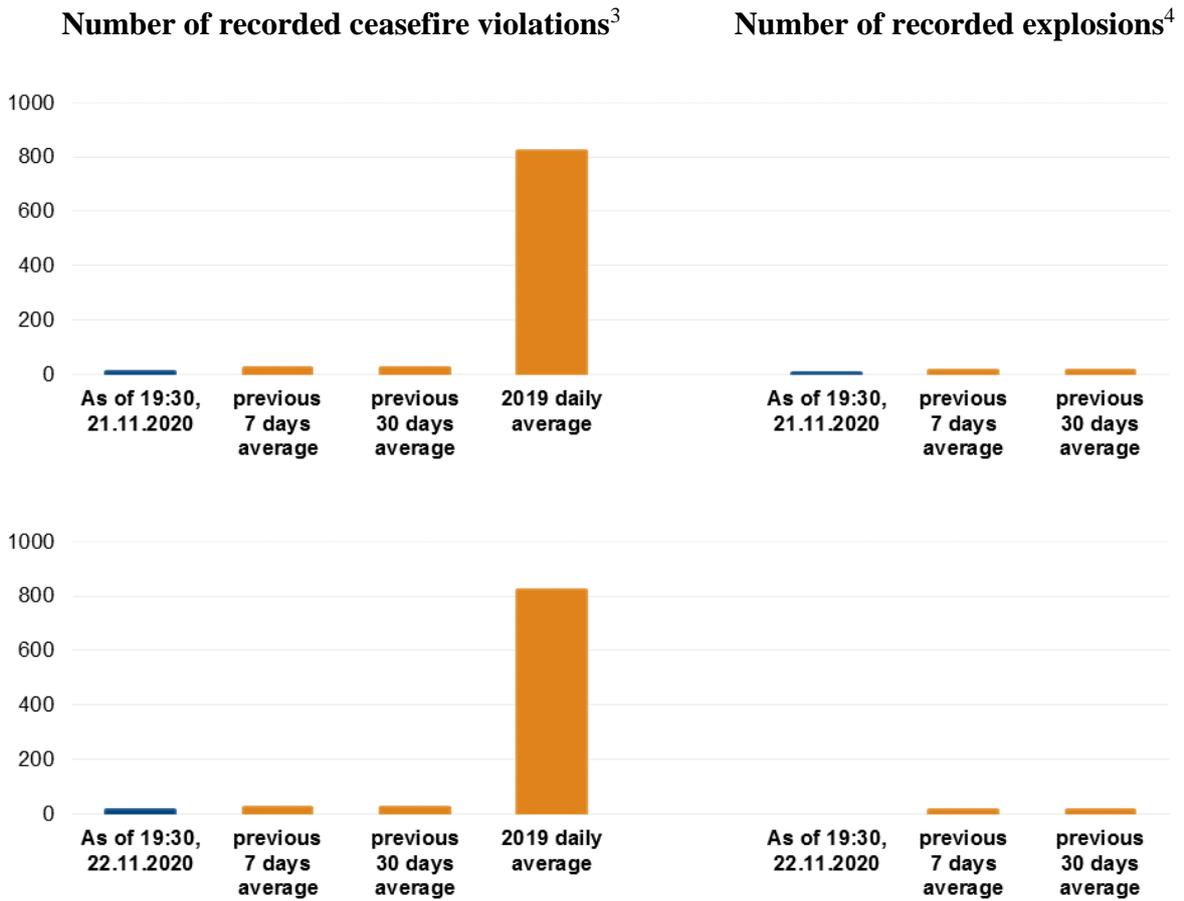
## Summary

- Between the evenings of 20 and 22 November, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 32 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 20 and 22 November, the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and observed a calm situation in all three areas.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable maintenance to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) and two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region, and at three EECPs and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM observed areas around polling stations during the second round of local elections on 22 November and found the situation calm and peaceful.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Kreminets and Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region, and near a border crossing point outside government control near Leonove (formerly Chervonyi Zhovten), Luhansk region.\*

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 November 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

**Ceasefire violations<sup>2</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 at the parking lot south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions

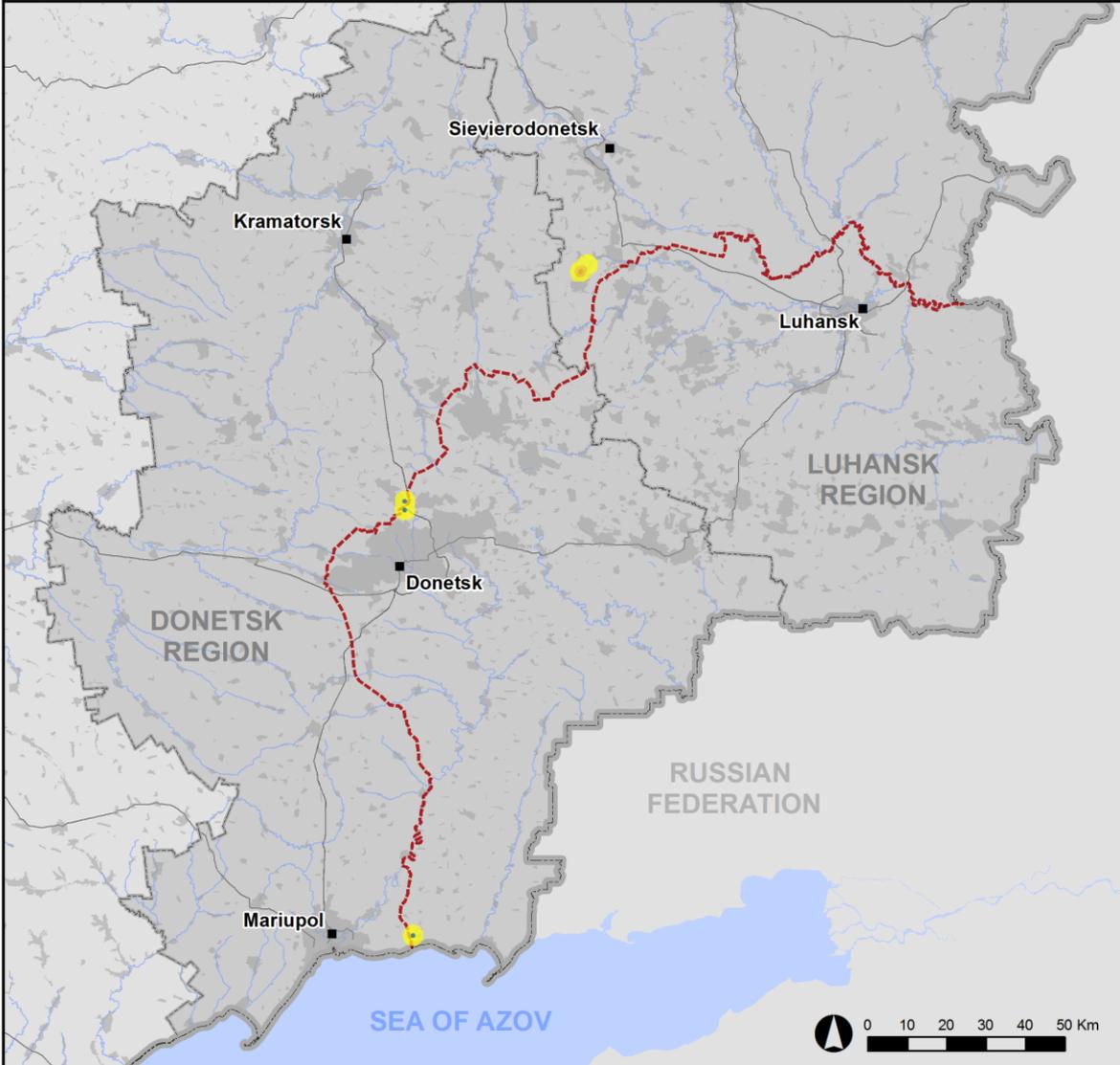
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 21-22 November 2020



**Ceasefire violation concentration**

- High
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- 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: 23/11/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 20 and 22 November, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, two of which occurred at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), in close proximity to it, on the evening of 20 November. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 32 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 20 and 22 November, the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations, mostly shots of small-arms fire on the morning of 22 November, all of which occurred north-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations, both undetermined 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 2,514 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 990 explosions, 75 projectiles in flight, 33 muzzle flashes, 27 illumination flares and 1,389 bursts and shots).

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 21 and 22 November, 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 both days, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

On 21 and 22 November, on the southern edge of the area, the SMM saw four workers clearing vegetation in a field about 10-30m east of road T-1316.

On both days, while positioned close to 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.

The SMM saw three tanks beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

### **Weapons permanent storage site**

*At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region*

22 November

The Mission noted that all weapons previously observed at the site were present.

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

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

On the same day, on the edge of a road in a residential area in Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), the Mission saw for the first time a red rectangular sign, assessed as recently installed, with ‘Stop! Shooting! Passage is forbidden!’ written on it in Russian.

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

On 21 November, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining of agricultural fields near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk).

On both days, 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).

On both days, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, on 21 November, 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.

On 22 November, the SMM noted that the EECP near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. On 21 and 22 November, the Mission noted that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic, and that checkpoints of the armed formations near non-government-controlled Kremnets (16km south-west of Donetsk) and Olenivka (23km south-west of Donetsk) were closed.

In Luhansk region, on both days, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

On 21 November, while at the EECP at about 13:40 and 15:00, the SMM observed in total ten people (six women and three men, mixed ages, and one boy aged about three) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and five people (three women and two men in their fifties and

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

sixties) queuing to travel in the opposite direction. On 22 November, while at the EECP at about 13:30 and 15:00, the Mission observed in total 13 people (ten women in their sixties and two boys and one girl aged between three and nine) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and five people (two women and three men, mixed ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

On 21 November, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge between 9:30 and 10:55, the Mission saw in total 90 people (60 women and 30 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 191 people (108 women and 83 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. On 22 November, while at the checkpoint between 9:30 and 11:30, the SMM saw in total 107 people (64 women and 43 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 53 people (31 women and 22 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On both days, the SMM saw a golf cart operating between the EECP and the new section of the bridge, and a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint of the armed formations and a bus stop 1.8km south of the bridge.

On both days, the Mission noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia remained closed.

On 21 November, near the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bride, the Mission observed 13 workers with heavy equipment placing roofing over a construction, assessed as for use as a future bus stop, carrying out groundworks, constructing and installing fences and painting wooden benches and doors.

### **SMM observed a calm situation in east and south-east Kherson region**

On 20 and 21 November, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east and east Kherson region, at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson), at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), near Henichesk (176 km east of Kherson), and near Strilkove (193km south-east of Kherson).

### **SMM monitored the situation during the second round of local elections in Dnipro, Lviv and Drohobych**

On 22 November, during the second round of local elections, the SMM visited public places near polling stations in Dnipro, Lviv and Drohobych and observed a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, 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 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 22 November, at a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, referring to orders from superiors.
- On the same day, about 4km north-north-west of a border crossing point near Leonove (formerly Chervonyi Zhovten, non-government-controlled, 82km south of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the border crossing point, referring to orders from 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.

#### Conditional access:

- On 21 November, on two occasions at a checkpoint near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations (one of whom visibly armed) allowed the SMM to proceed only after a delay.

#### Other impediments:

- On 21 November, three SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, on three occasions: once while flying over areas near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk) and twice while flying over areas near Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 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
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
21/11/2020	3	Tank (T-64)	In Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

#### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
19/11/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
22/11/2020	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Mykolaivka (40km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

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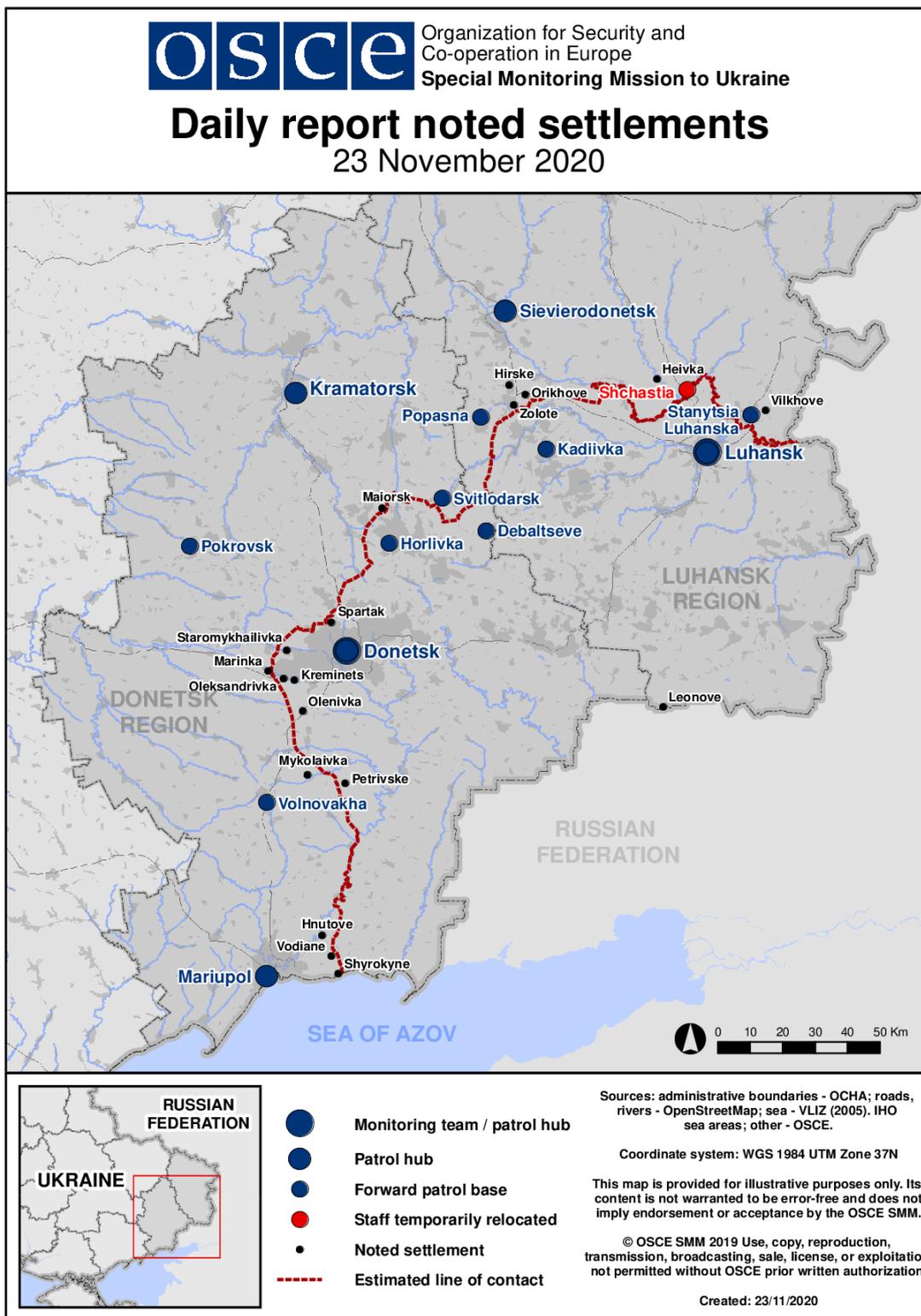
<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 November 2020<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Nov, 21:33
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Nov, 21:36
About 1,5km WNW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 11:30
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NE	Heard	5	Shot	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 16:02-16:03
	400-500m NE	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	22-Nov, 08:45-09:03

<sup>9</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>10</sup>



<sup>10</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).