

# Daily Report 43/2021

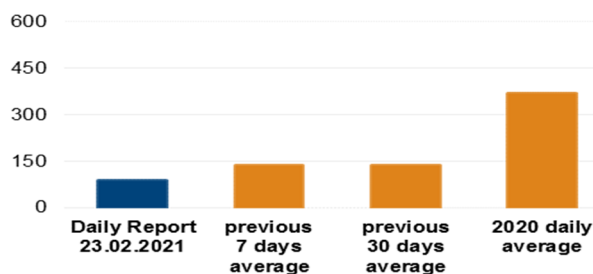
23 February 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

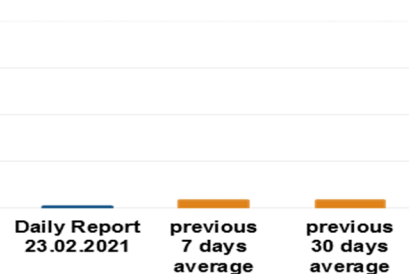
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 88 ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 60 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and again saw containers inside and near the southern edge of the area near Zolote and people inside the latter two areas during daytime.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance, and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and five corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including in border areas outside government control in Luhansk region: at border crossing points near Izvaryne and Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk), and at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

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



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



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

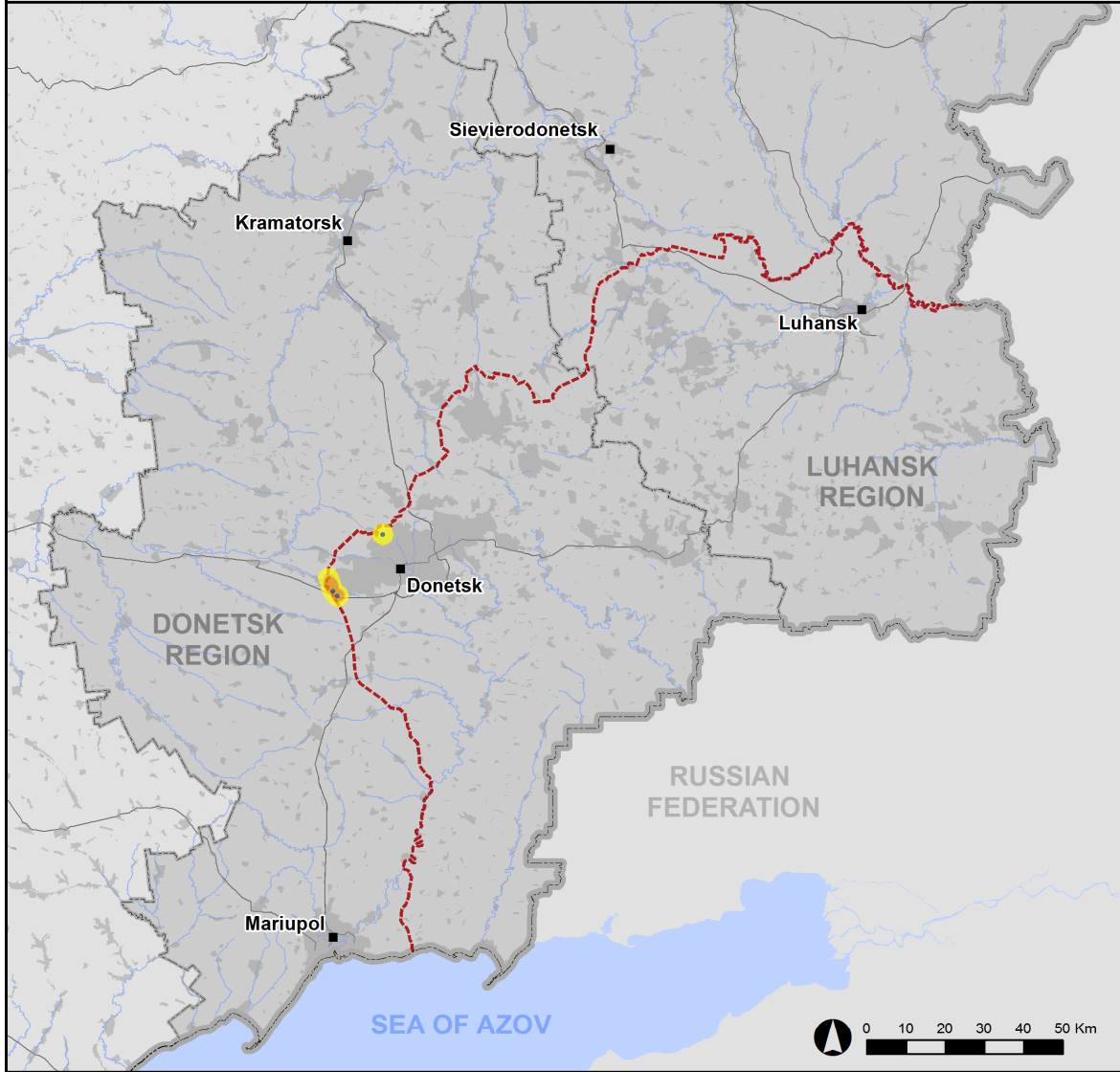
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

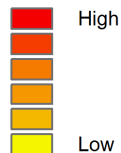


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 February 2021



#### 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: 22/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 88 ceasefire violations, including three undetermined explosions. All but one ceasefire violation occurred at westerly directions from the Petrovskiy district of Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre) and at westerly directions from Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded ten ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 60 ceasefire violations in the region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 10,603 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,409 explosions, 1,180 projectiles in flight, 101 muzzle flashes, 61 illumination flares and at least 5,852 bursts and shots).

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

On 21 February, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw at least three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 20 February, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner, and another inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 22 February, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of the area’s southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission again saw concrete blocks placed along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter and saw for the first time additional concrete blocks extending eastwards for about 15m.

The SMM again saw another container, which was previously located about 30m north of the area’s southern edge, on the area’s southern edge.

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five containers and another about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. It saw four workers digging about 50m in the ground in a northerly direction from the former container, as well as connecting underground electricity cables from the former container to the latter. About 10–30m north of the former container, the Mission again saw six concrete blocks placed in three rows across both lanes of the same road.

The Mission also saw a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it) walk inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

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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.

During the day on 20 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m east-north-east of its south-western corner. On the area's eastern edge, the UAV also spotted two people and a car near a former position of the armed formations, about 350m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On 22 February, while positioned at three locations close to the area, 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 observed a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled residential area of Donetsk region, 15 multiple launch rocket systems (of which seven in two training areas) and eight towed howitzers, some of which in a residential area, in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, it observed six surface-to-air missile systems in a governmental-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as 21 tanks, 23 howitzers, three surface-to-air missile systems and three mortars, all in training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region including in residential areas, and armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Luhansk region, including in residential areas (for further information, see the table below).

### **Anti-tank mines near non-government-controlled Dokuchaievsk and Yasne, Donetsk region, and near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora, Luhansk region**

On 19 February, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time about 60 anti-tank mines grouped together in a field about 2.5km east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and about 300m east of the road leading from Vesela Hora to Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not visible in imagery from 9 December 2020).

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time ten anti-tank mines laid across a road between Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk) and Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 40km south of Donetsk), about 6.5km south of the former settlement. About 1.3km west and 2.7km east-south-east of these mines, in fields adjacent to the aforementioned road, the same UAV spotted about 30 anti-tank mines laid in two rows

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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.

running from north to south. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations, see [SMM Daily Report of 29 October 2019](#) and [SMM Daily Report of 22 May 2020](#) ).

On 20 February, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted eight anti-tank mines laid across road T-0509, about 1km north of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations, see [SMM Daily Report of 21 July 2019](#)).

On 22 February, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time a mine hazard sign (red rectangle with “Stop, Mines” written in Cyrillic) in a field about 500m north of Petrivske.

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

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

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and repairs to sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53m north-east of Donetsk).

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

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 15 minutes, the SMM observed two cars and nine pedestrians (four women in their thirties and forties and five men in their forties and sixties) entering Ukraine, as well as ten cars and ten pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine. After about five minutes, two members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the Mission observed no civilian traffic entering Ukraine and one car exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka for about ten minutes, the Mission observed no traffic. After about ten minutes, two visibly armed members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

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

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, while at the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska at about 09:00 and 11:20 a.m., the Mission saw 250 people (135 women and 115 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and no people queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM

observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and the EECP.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge between 9:50 and 10:20 a.m., as well as between 11:00 and 11:10 a.m., the Mission saw 36 people (24 women and 12 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 133 people (70 women and 63 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction, respectively.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia were open, but did not observe any people passing through, and that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odessa, Lviv, 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 Minsk agreements 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:

- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing a “lack of permission from their superiors”.
- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, referring to orders from their superiors.
- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, two visibly armed members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, referring to orders from their 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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas only after about 70 minutes.

Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- On 20 February, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Stepanivka (54km north of Donetsk) and Zolote-4/Rodina (59km west of Luhansk), between non-government-controlled Sokilnyky (38km north-west of Luhansk) and Raivka (16km north-west of Luhansk), and between Kultura (non-government-controlled, 54km south-east of Donetsk) and Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk).
- On 22 February, an SMM mini-UAV on two occasions experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the Petrovskyi district of Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

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<sup>7</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' position.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	6	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
20/2/2021	8		In a compound near Sadovyi (57km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1		In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)	
22/2/2021	8	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm), each being towed by a truck	In a residential area on the southern outskirts of Luhansk city	Patrol

### 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>				
22/2/2021	6	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	Near Kalynove (31km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	1	Tank (T-64B)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	10	Tank (five T-64, four T-72B, one T-72B model 1989)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	
	6	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm);		
	7	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	3	Towed mortars (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		
20/2/2021	10	Tank (eight probable T-64 and two probable T-72)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where the SMM also observed 28 infantry fighting vehicles (26 BMP-1 and two BMP-2) and six armoured personnel carriers (MT-LB) (of which one with a mounted anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)) <sup>8</sup>	Long-range UAV
	10	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )		

<sup>8</sup> The armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft gun mentioned here are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.



**Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>9</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Mykolaivka (40km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
20/2/2021	4	Armoured combat vehicle	In residential areas of Taramchuk, (29km south-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP-1 and one probable BMP-1)		
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (probable MT-LB)		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Near Taramchuk, (29km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)		
	3	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)		
	3	Armored combat vehicle	In a residential area of Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Vodiane (15km north-west of Donetsk)	
21/2/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near a residential area of Svitle (11km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
22/2/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound near Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

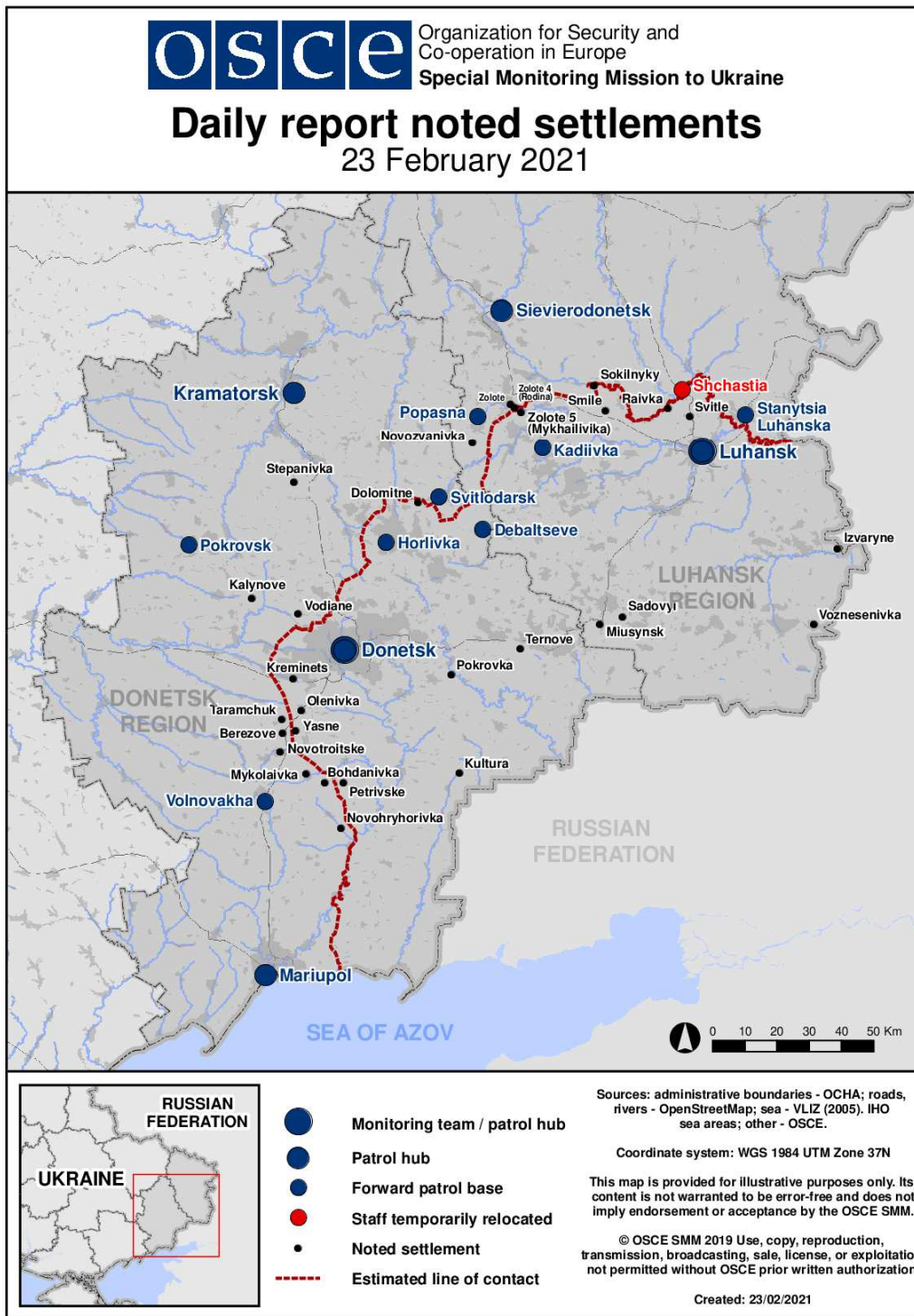
<sup>9</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 February 2021<sup>10</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	100-250m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Feb, 22:59
About 1km NW of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 10:57
About 500m SE of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 11:39
	1-1.5km WSW	Heard	29	Shot		Small arms	22-Feb, 11:41-11:44
About 5.5km WNW of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km SW of Donetsk city centre)	1.5-2.5km SSW	Heard	18	Shot		Small arms	22-Feb, 12:55-12:59
	1.5-2.5km SSW	Heard	26	Burst		Small arms	22-Feb, 12:55-12:59
	1-2km W	Heard	9	Shot		Small arms	22-Feb, 12:55
	1-2km W	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	22-Feb, 13:01

<sup>10</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>11</sup>



<sup>11</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).