

Daily Report 45/2021

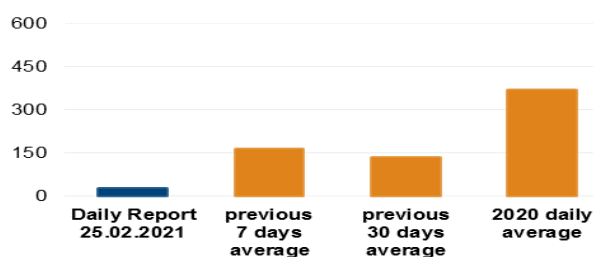
25 February 2021¹

Summary

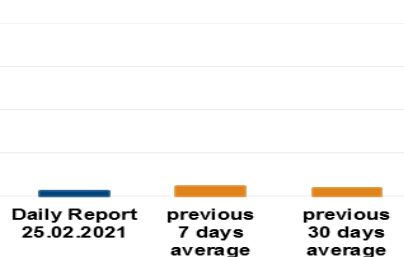
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 170 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- 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 two latter areas during daytime.
- The Mission observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard two ceasefire violations close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near the times when a bus with DFS workers was driving to and from the station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- 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, 24 February 2021. 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.

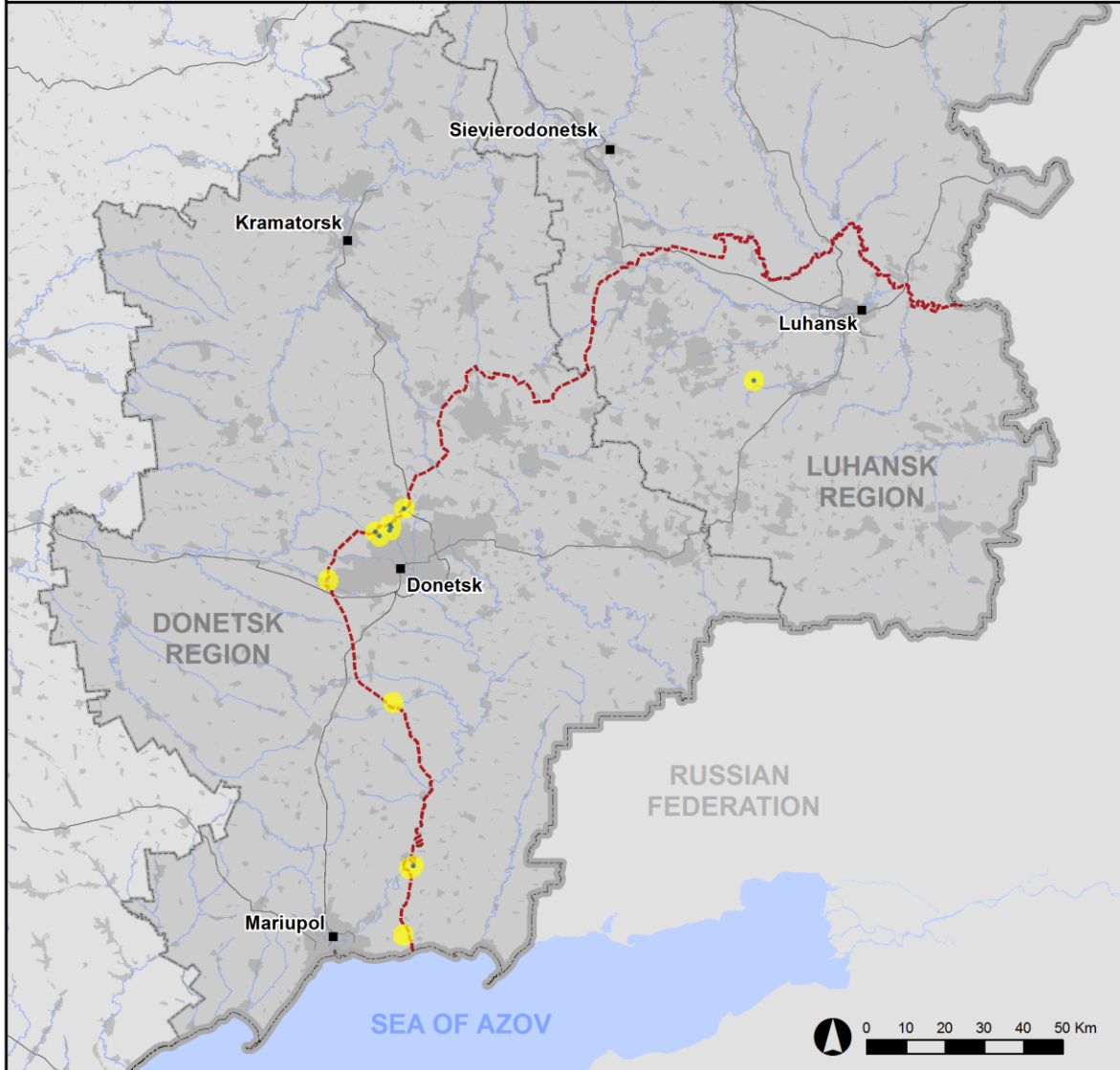
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

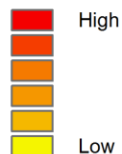


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 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: 25/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations, including 13 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at south-easterly directions of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) and at south-westerly directions of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 170 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations – both explosions assessed as caused by artillery rounds – in an area south of Shymshynivka (non-government-controlled, 27 south-west of Luhansk), assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations.

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 10,798 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,546 explosions, 1,233 projectiles in flight, 104 muzzle flashes, 61 illumination flares and at least 5,854 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 24 February, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two 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 23 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 600m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner and a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 24 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). Inside the fenced perimeter, the Mission saw four workers welding a metal pole to the fence. The SMM again saw concrete blocks placed along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter. On the northern edge of the road leading to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, opposite the fenced perimeter, the Mission saw for the first time a metal gate post, reportedly for traffic regulation, as well as a power cable leading from the post to the fenced perimeter. It also saw a worker conducting electrical works in the area of the post. About 3m further east, the SMM saw for the first time that two [previously reported](#) metal gate posts fixed on the western and eastern edges of road T-1316 had moveable barriers attached to them (positioned upwards to not block the road), also reportedly to be used for traffic regulation.

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.

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

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. 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.

While positioned near the abovementioned checkpoint of the armed formations, the Mission saw at least three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), all of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by an ambulance carrying two women in protective medical gear and a man in civilian clothing.

During the day on 23 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner. On the area’s eastern edge, the same UAV spotted two people near a former position of the armed formations, about 350m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On 24 February, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission heard two bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 4-5km north-north-west, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

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 six multiple launch rocket systems in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed a surface-to-air missile system and 40 howitzers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (of which 24 at a railway station), as well as ten tanks, six howitzers and three mortars in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in and near residential areas, and armoured combat vehicles in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Recent impact craters near Syhnalne

On 21 February, in a field about 2km north-west of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time 12 impact

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

craters, all assessed as recent (not visible in imagery from 7 October 2020) and assessed as caused by probable 120mm mortar rounds (the SMM could not assess the direction of fire) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 6 February 2021](#)).

Anti-tank mines near Slavne, Olenivka, Oleksandrivka, the destroyed Donetsk international airport and Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district, and unexploded ordnance near Hranitne, all in Donetsk region

On 21 February, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 20 anti-tank mines extending from a local road into a field about 3.5km east of Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk). About 6km further north-north-west, the same UAV again spotted about 50 anti-tank mines in a field. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 21 July 2019](#) and [SMM Daily Report of 20 December 2019](#)).

About 1km north-west of a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), the same UAV again spotted three anti-tank mines laid across road C-051133, and, about 70m further west on the same road, it spotted another seven. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 3 February 2021](#)).

On 22 February, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time 16 anti-tank mines running south-west to north-east in a field on the north-western edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. The Mission was unable to assess if they had been laid recently.

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 86 anti-tank mines on the western outskirts of non-government-controlled Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district, about 200m north-west of residential houses, laid across a road and extending into adjacent fields, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 18 January 2021](#)).

On 23 February, at the destroyed Donetsk international airport, an SMM long-range UAV [again](#) spotted 23 anti-tank mines laid across a taxiway, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 23 February, about 2m south of road T-0512, on the southern outskirts of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk), the SMM [again](#) saw a piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO), assessed as a rocket-propelled grenade.

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). On the morning of 23 February, while positioned about 1km north-west of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, near the times when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the DFS and back to Yasynuvata, respectively.

The SMM also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

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

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any people passing through, and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

It also noted that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any people passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in the opposite direction at the EECP and at the checkpoint.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) 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.

SMM observed gathering in Kyiv

On 23 February, near the building of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Bankova Street, 11, the SMM saw about 3,000 people (mixed genders and ages) expressing opinions critical of a court decision regarding an activist, and also observed several scuffles between some of these people and law enforcement officers. The SMM observed about 150 law enforcement officers at the gathering. According to a police statement published on 24 February, 24 people had been detained.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odessa, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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 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 SMM Daily Report of 23 February 2021](#)). 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.

Other impediments: ⁷

- On 23 February, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Predtechyne (58km north of Donetsk), and over areas near Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, government-controlled, 67km north of Donetsk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Predtechyne and Bakhmut, between Bakhmut and Vesela Dolyna (government-controlled, 64km north of Donetsk), between Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and the destroyed Donetsk international airport (non-government-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk), and between government-controlled Buhas (44km south-west of Donetsk) and Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk).

⁷ 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
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/2/2021	6	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	Near Oleksandropil (43km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
24/2/2021	13	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Druzhkivka (72km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	15	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122 mm)	At a railway station in Druzhkivka (72km north of Donetsk)	
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsyia</i> , 152mm)		
	3		Near Druzhkivka (72km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/2/2021	10	Tank (five T-64, four T-72B and one T-72B model 1989)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	6	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	3	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
22/2/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
23/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Near Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	In a residential area of Heorhiievka (27km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle		
	6	Infantry fighting vehicle (five BMP-2 and one BMP-1Ksh <i>Potok-2</i>)	In a residential area of Chystyi Kliuch (26km north-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)		
24/2/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-3)	Near Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/2/2021	4	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Armoured combat vehicle		

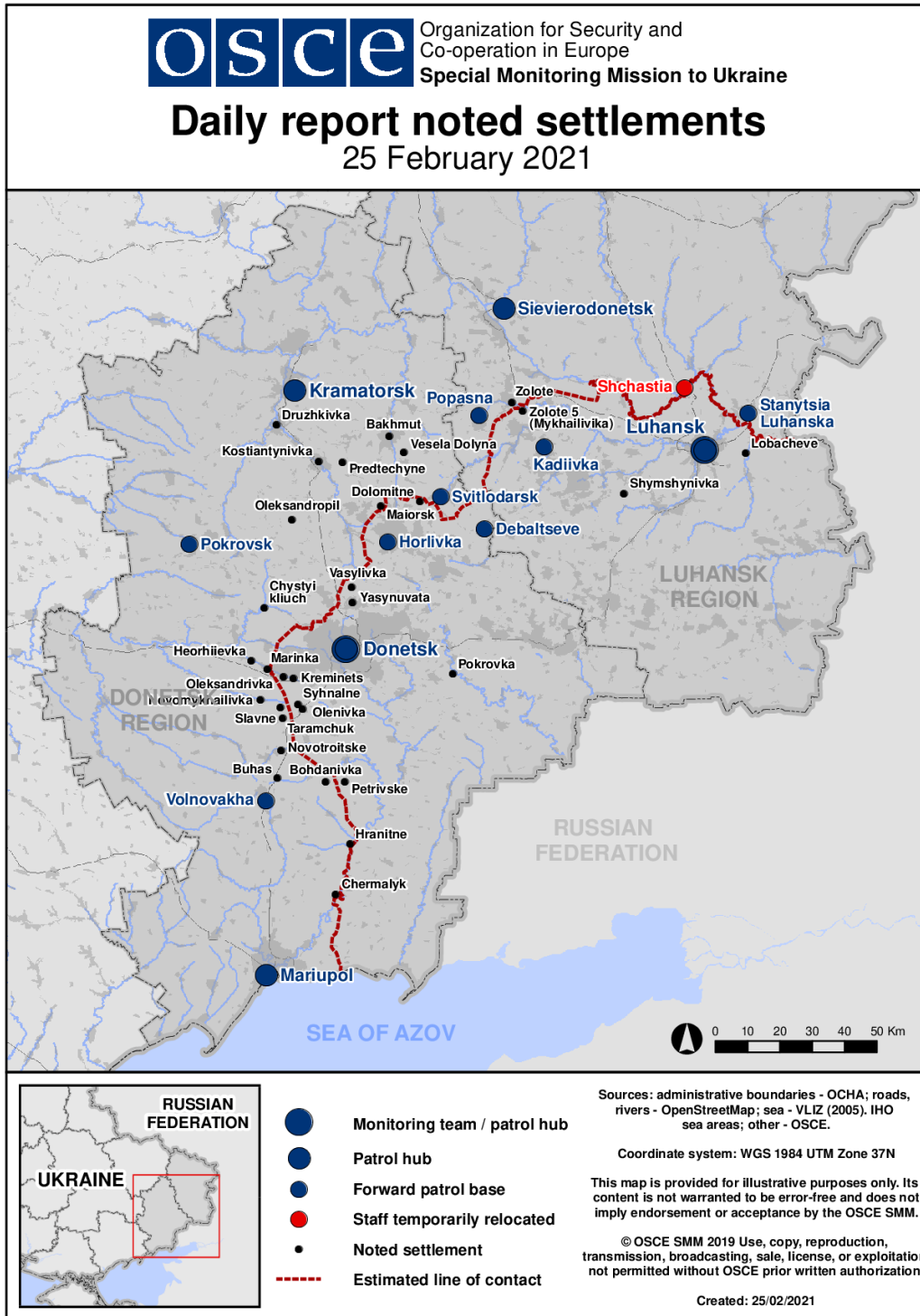
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 February 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Feb, 20:26
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	2	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	23-Feb, 20:26
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 20:26
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	23-Feb, 20:29
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 17:28
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	0.5-1km WSW	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Feb, 00:00
	1-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 21:29
	0.5-1km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 22:58
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	23-Feb, 20:26
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 09:18
	3-5km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 13:42
About 3.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 10:35
	5-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 10:37
About 4km SSE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	5-7km SSW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 10:52-10:55
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	5-7km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Feb, 13:35
About 2km ENE of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	4-5km NNW	Heard	2	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	HMG	24-Feb, 11:09
SW edge of Shymshynivka (non-government-controlled, 27 SW of Luhansk)	2-3km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	Artillery (type N/K)	24-Feb, 12:23-12:24

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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).