

Daily Report 55/2021

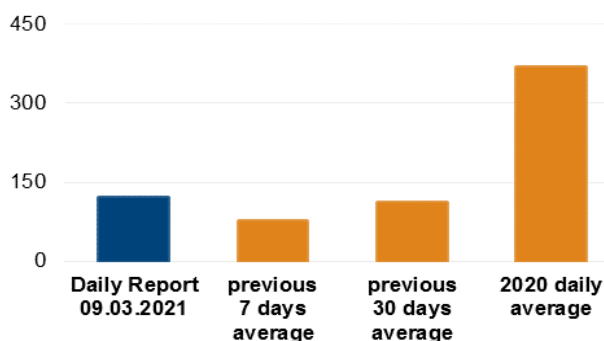
9 March 2021¹

Summary

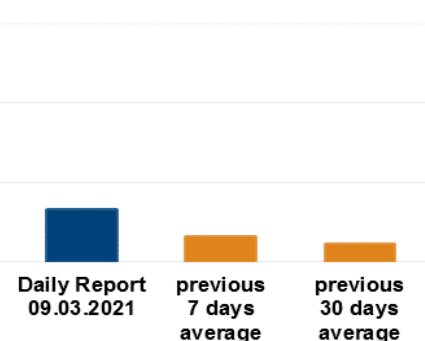
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 105 ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours it recorded nine ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and observed people inside the area near Zolote.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The SMM monitored events on the occasion of International Women’s Day in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kramatorsk.
- 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, 8 March 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.

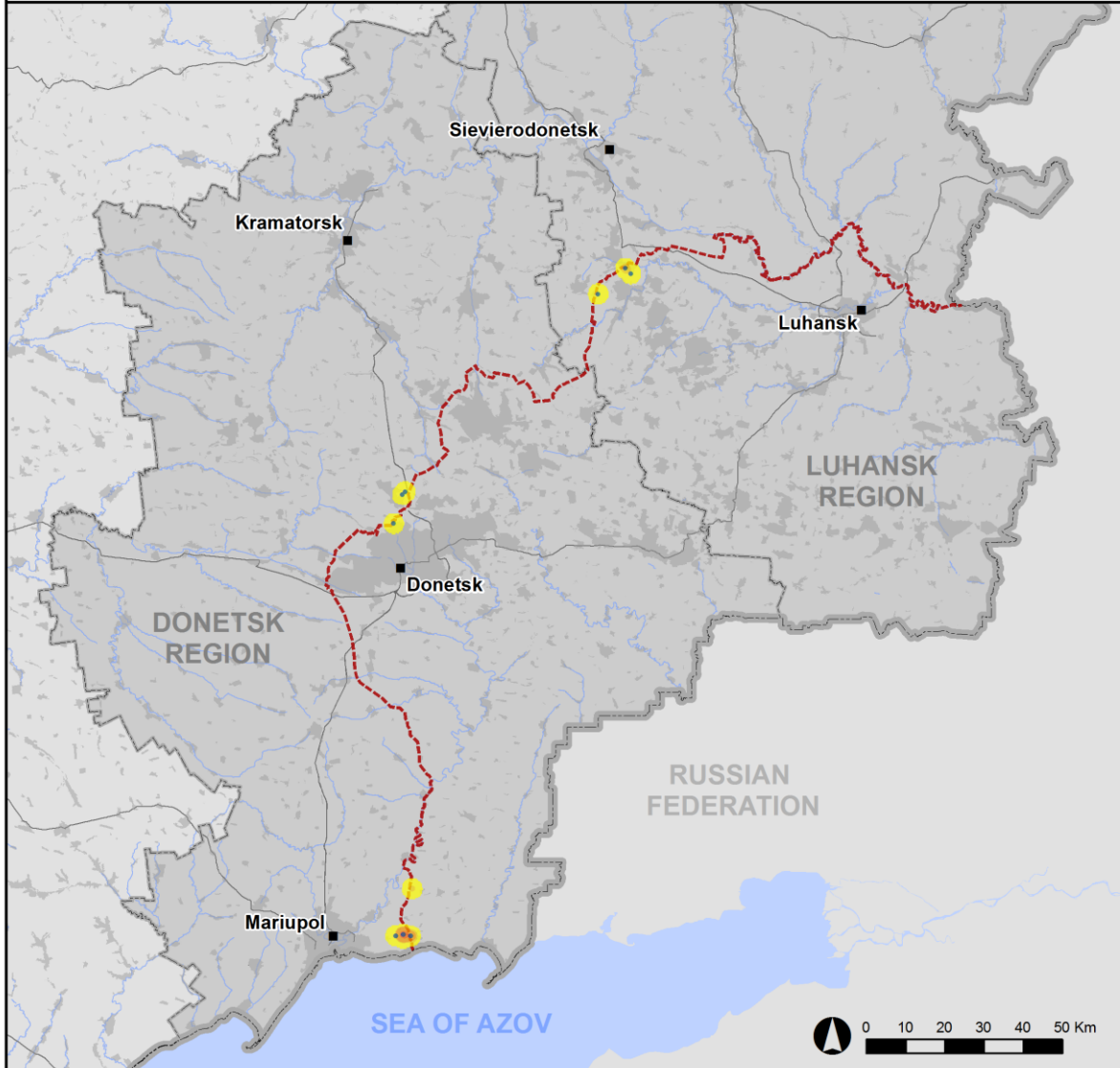
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

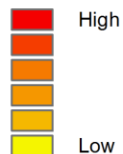
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 8 March 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: 09/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 105 ceasefire violations, including 83 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded nine ceasefire violations, all in an area north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north and east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below.) In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded no 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 11,578 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,030 explosions, 1,438 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 62 illumination flares and at least 5,932 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 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 7 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner. The UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5 km north of the its south-eastern corner.

On 8 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

Also near the same checkpoint, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote - 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area’s southern edge.

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.

On 8 March, while positioned on the northern edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard 18 undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km at north-easterly directions, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

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

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed a surface-to-air missile system and two tanks in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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).

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open and saw civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Novoborovytsi (79km south of Luhansk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission observed no pedestrians entering and two pedestrians (one man and one woman in their forties) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk) for about 25 minutes, the Mission observed two cars and five pedestrians (three men and one woman in their thirties, and one child) entering and seven cars (including two with "LPR" plates), a bus (with "LPR" plates) and seven pedestrians (all men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

SMM monitored International Women's Day events in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kramatorsk

On 8 March, the SMM monitored events marking International's Women's Day in Lviv (with about 200 participants), Ivano-Frankivsk (about 30), Kharkiv (about 500), Dnipro (about 70), Zaporizhzhia (156km south of Dnipro) (about 100), Kramatorsk (government-controlled, 83km north of Donetsk) (about 75) and Kyiv (about 3,000), attended mostly by women of mixed ages. Also, near the gatherings in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Kyiv the SMM observed groups (between 10 to 100 people, mostly men, mixed ages) holding counter-gatherings. The SMM also saw law enforcement officers (between a few and several hundred depending on the location). In Kyiv, the Mission observed some of the counter-protesters attempting to approach the event participants but were stopped by the officers. (For a similar event in Odessa, see [SMM Daily Report of 6 March 2021](#)).

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa 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, 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 [SMM Daily Report of 2 March 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.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
7/3/2021	2	Tank (type undetermined)	In Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
8/3/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Volnovakha (53km south of Donetsk), on road H-20 heading in a northerly direction	Patrol

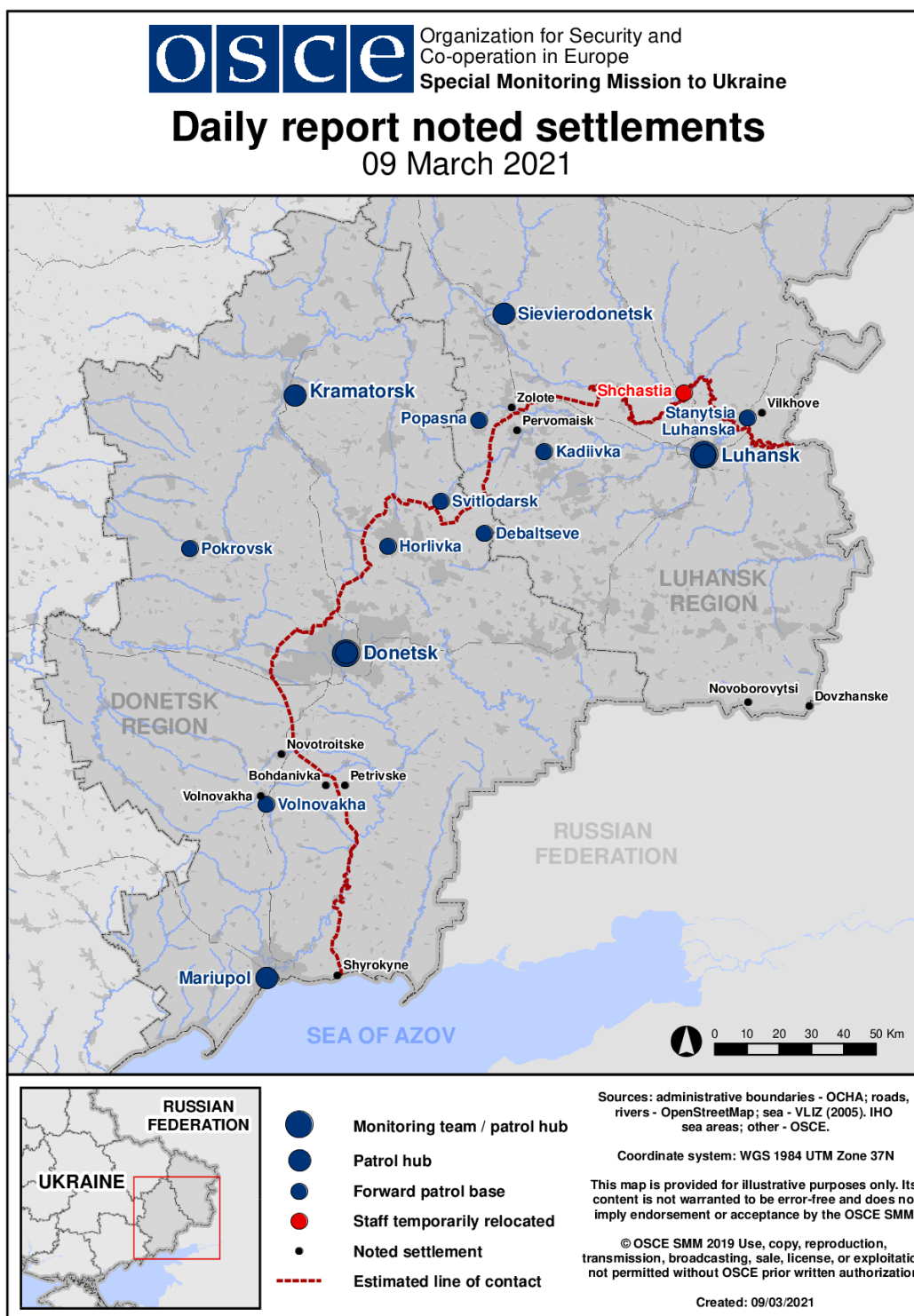
Table of ceasefire violations as of 8 March 2021⁶

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Mar, 20:15
	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Mar, 21:24
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	7-Mar, 22:47
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	8-Mar, 00:43
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	5	Projectile	S to N	N/K	8-Mar, 04:15
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Mar, 21:58
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	7-Mar, 19:24
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	7-Mar, 22:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 01:56
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 01:57
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 01:58
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 01:59
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:01
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:04
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:06
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:12
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:14
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:14
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:15
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:15
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:16
	4-6km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:16
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:17
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:17

⁶ 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.

	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:19
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:19
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:20
	4-6km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:21
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:22
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	8-Mar, 02:27
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	8-Mar, 02:29
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:30
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:30
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:32
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:33
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:35
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:35
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:39
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:41
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:42
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:44
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:44
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:45
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:48
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:48
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:49
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:50
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:51
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:52
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:53
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:54
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:54
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:55
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 02:57
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	8-Mar, 03:25
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	8-Mar, 04:15
N edge of Pervomaïsk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-3km NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	8-Mar, 11:50-12:07
	2-3km ENE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	8-Mar, 11:50-12:07
	3-4 km NNE	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	8-Mar, 11:50-12:07
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 11:52

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁷



⁷ 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).