

Daily Report 57/2021

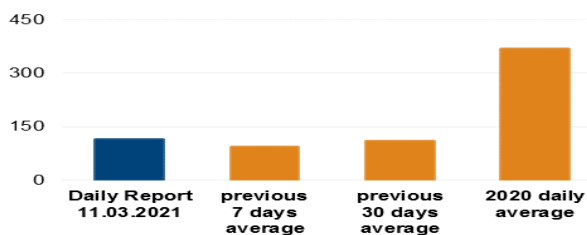
11 March 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 45 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 128 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 70 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 26 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze), Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded 53 ceasefire violations, including 17 undetermined explosions, at north-easterly and north-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote.
- 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 time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and their corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM'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, 10 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.

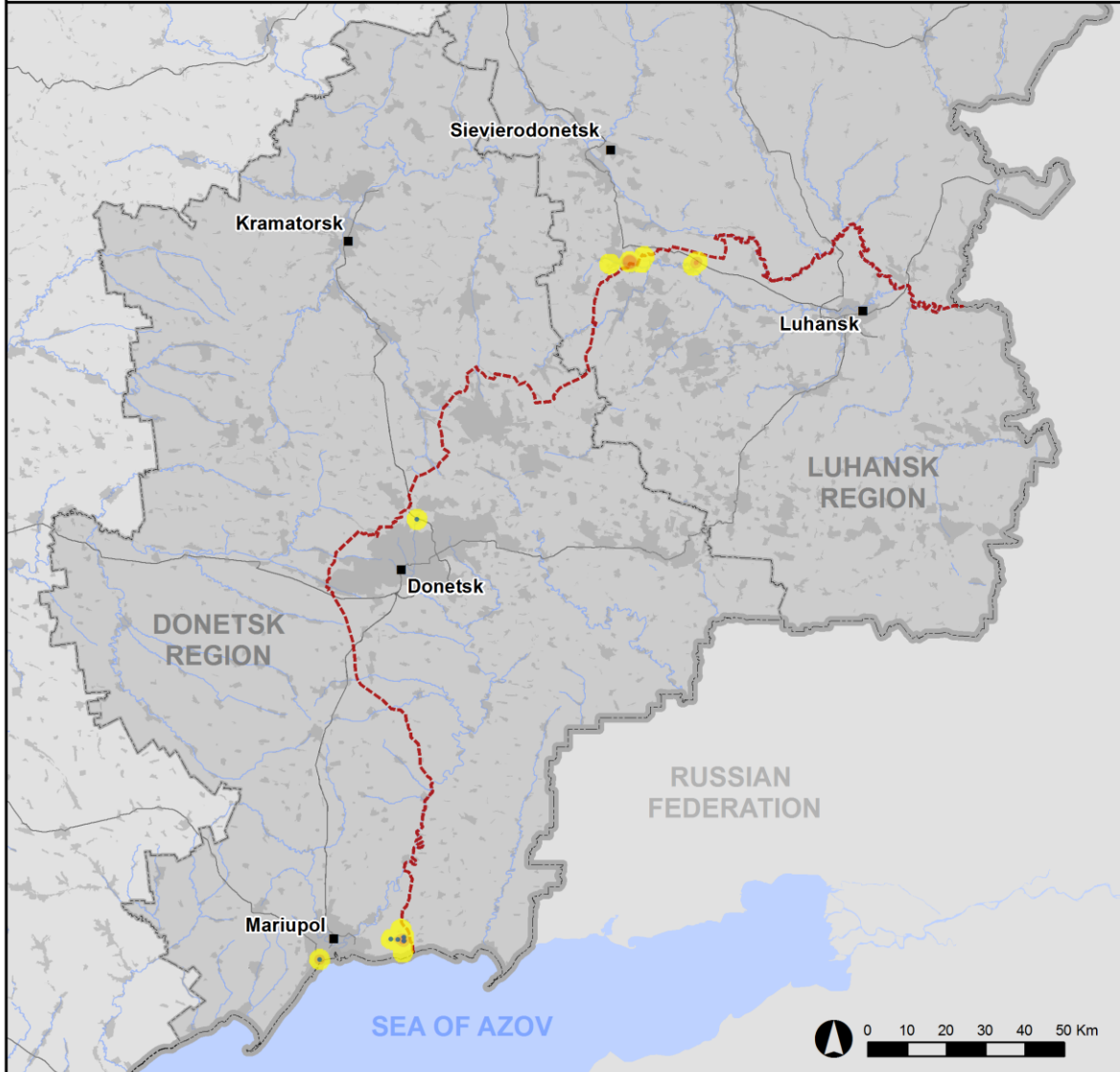
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

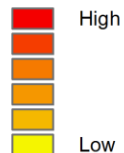
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 10 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: 11/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 45 ceasefire violations, including 29 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 128 ceasefire violations, some of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 70 ceasefire violations, including 17 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations, including all explosions, occurred at north-easterly and north-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations, the majority of which occurred in areas south of the disengagement area near Zolote.

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 11,847 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,178 explosions, 1,459 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,031 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Sentianivka, Luhansk region

On 10 March, while positioned on the northern edge of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, at 10:15 and 10:17, the SMM heard 12 and five shots of small-arms fire at assessed ranges of 2–2.5km and 0.7-1km north-east respectively, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 2.2km and 900m north-east of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

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).

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, 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, 60km 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.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw six 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.

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

An additional four members of the armed formations arrived in a civilian car with “JCCC” written on it and later left in the same vehicle towards Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk).

While positioned at three locations near the area (including at the abovementioned checkpoint), the SMM heard 17 undetermined explosions and 36 shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote but within 5km of its periphery. (See below).

While in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two explosions assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO), assessed as outside the disengagement area.

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 SMM observed a surface-to-air missile system and 15 self-propelled howitzers in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM saw three armoured reconnaissance vehicles in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below).

Mine hazard signs near Semyhiria

About 3km east of Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed for the first time three mine hazard signs (red squares with white skulls and crossbones and “Mines” written in Ukrainian) on the northern edge of the junction of two local roads.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission recorded two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, which occurred near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station towards Yasynuvata.

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); maintenance to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and in Shchastia

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

(government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk); as well as maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk). While positioned in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, the SMM heard 46 ceasefire violations in the area, including ten undetermined explosions. (See above).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (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 queueing to travel in both directions.

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 Odessa, Lviv, Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, 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 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.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 10 March, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south 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 UAV's positions.

- On the same day, while positioned on the northern edge of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 17 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area (see above).

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				
9/3/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a compound near Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	15	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	In Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/3/2021	3	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

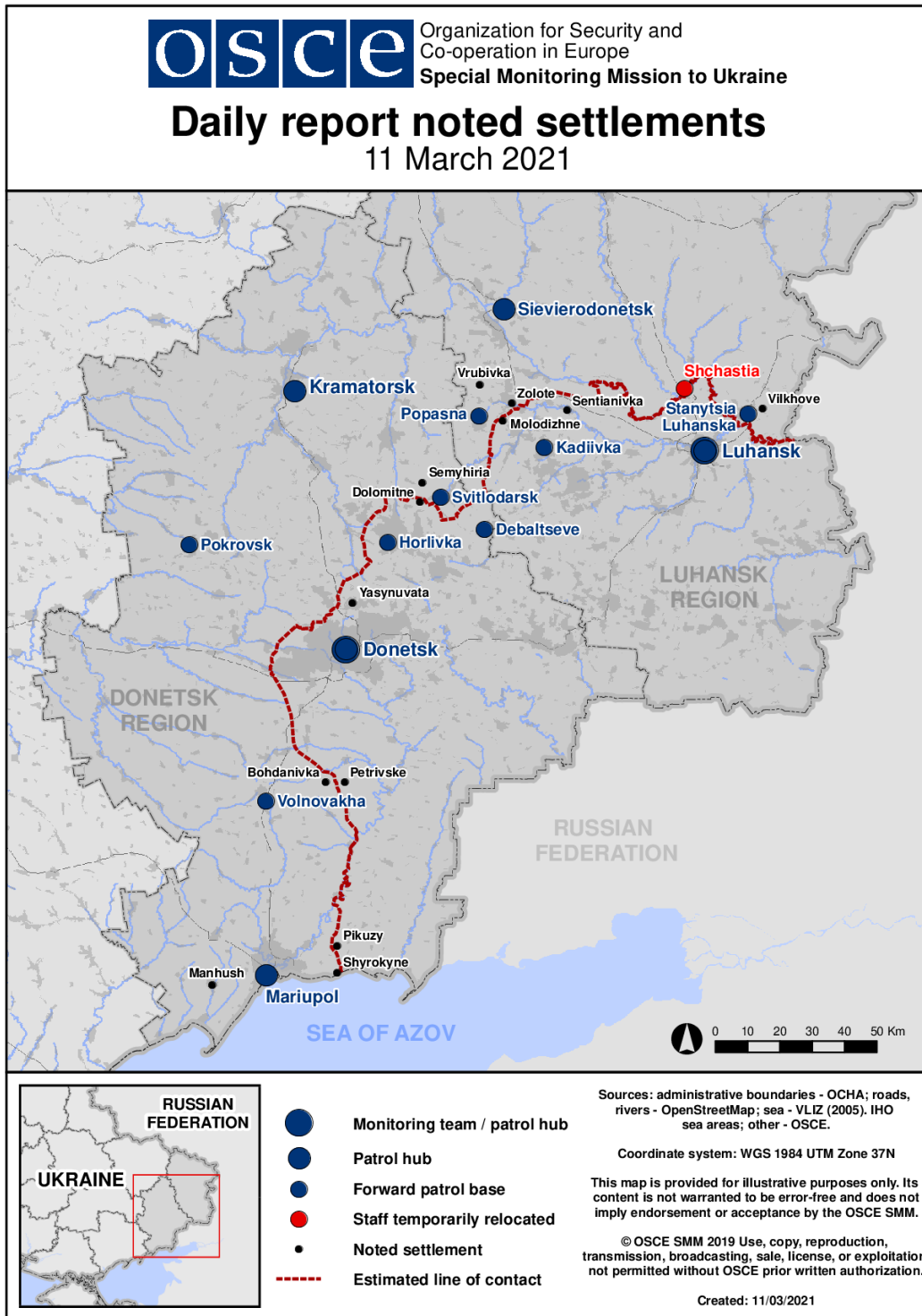
Table of ceasefire violations as of 10 March 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 19:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 23:44
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	10-Mar, 00:11
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	10-Mar, 00:11
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 00:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 01:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 02:42
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 02:43
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 02:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 02:47
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 02:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 02:54
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 03:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	10-Mar, 04:41
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non- government- controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 09:43- 09:47
Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	N/K NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 10:14- 10:21
About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	10-Mar, 10:21
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-3km ESE	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	10-Mar, 12:39
	2-3km NNE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 12:43
	2-3km NNE	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	10-Mar, 12:43
Mariupol (government- controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	N/K NE	Heard	13	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 17:27- 17:49
N edge of Sentianivka	2-2.5km NE	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	10-Mar, 10:15

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.

(formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km W of Luhansk)	0.7-1km NE	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	10-Mar, 10:17
S edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km N	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside of the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 13:44-13:49
	2-4km N	Heard	36	Shot	Assessed as outside of the disengagement area	Small arms	10-Mar, 13:44-13:49
	3-5km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside of the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 13:44-13:49
Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside of the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 13:55-13:59
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-5km NW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside of the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 14:13

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).