

# Daily Report 61/2021

16 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

#### **Summary**

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 93 ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it also recorded 93 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 30 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of a man who died due to blood loss and shrapnel injuries in Zolote-4/Rodina, Luhansk region and a man who was injured due to small-arms fire in Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM long-range UAV spotted people inside the latter two areas during daytime.
- The Mission 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 entryexit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint
  of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region, and at a border crossing point
  outside government control near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk), Luhansk
  region.\*

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

# Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup> Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup> Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup> Daily Report previous 7 days 30 days average a

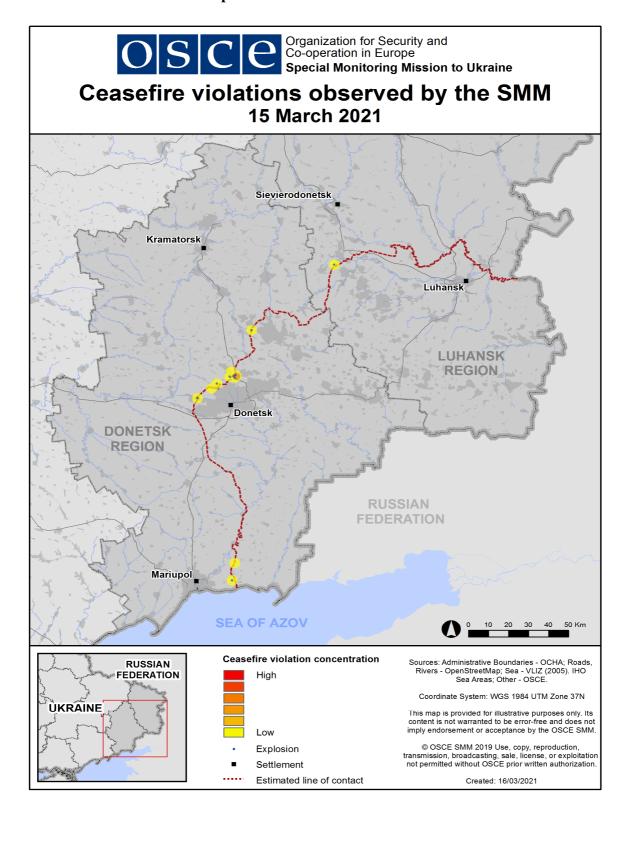
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 15 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

#### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 93 ceasefire violations, including 11 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at southerly and westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below) and in areas east of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk). In the <u>previous 24 hours</u>, the Mission also recorded 93 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one undetermined explosion in an area west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the <u>previous 24 hours</u>, the Mission recorded 30 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 12,423 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,466 explosions, 1,485 projectiles in flight, 125 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,284 bursts and shots).

# Members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage at a checkpoint near Olenivka, Donetsk region

On 15 March, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations asked the SMM twice to open the doors and trunks of both its vehicles, as well as its trailer, for visual inspection. The Mission refused to do so on both occasions. Despite efforts to facilitate the patrol's crossing undertaken by the SMM during the next hours, the vehicles were not allowed to pass. During that time, the checkpoint was open for civilian crossings. After waiting for nearly three hours, unable to proceed, the SMM left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city (see below and SMM Spot Report 3/2021).\*

# A man died due to blood loss and shrapnel injuries in Zolote-4/Rodina, Luhansk region and a man was injured due to small-arms fire in Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

The Mission followed up on reports of the death of a man on 23 February due to blood loss and shrapnel injuries to his abdomen in the Khutir Vilnyi area of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk) and injuries to a man due to small-arms fire on 22 February in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).

On 15 March, a woman (in her seventies) who introduced herself as the spouse of the deceased man (in his seventies) shared with the SMM a medical certificate which stated that the man had died on 23 February due to severe blood loss and shrapnel injuries to his abdomen. Over the phone, the woman also said that on 23 February she had heard the sound of cracking glass outside their house in the Khutir Vilnyi area of Zolote-4/Rodina, and that when she had gone outside she had found her husband lying on the ground and bleeding. She said that her husband had died on the way to the hospital in Lysychansk (government-controlled, 75km north-west of Luhansk). An officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) said that on 24 February a demining team of the Ukrainian Armed Forces had found several mines in the abovementioned area of Zolote-4/Rodina.

On 12 March, a man (in his twenties) told the Mission over the phone that on the evening of 22 February, he had been in the western part of Oleksandrivka, about 200m from the contact line, when he had heard two shots and felt a bullet strike his body, causing injuries to his hand and abdomen. He said he was admitted on that same day to hospital No. 14 in the Petrovskyi district of non-government-controlled Donetsk city. According to the medical certificate he shared with the SMM, the man suffered a gunshot wound to his abdomen and had undergone amputation of two fingers of his left hand. On 15 March, the SMM saw that the man had a bandage covering his left hand (for previous injuries to the same man, see SMM Daily Report 24 November 2020).

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

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed a calm situation.

During the day on 14 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted four people near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 400m northeast of the railway bridge, and four people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 15 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission heard an undetermined explosion, at an assessed range of 4-5km west, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the Mission 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, it 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.

Also while positioned near the same checkpoint, the Mission saw three 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.

During the day on 14 March, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people near a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

#### 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission observed a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as 24 howitzers in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 19 self-propelled howitzers, ten multiple launch rocket systems and 26 tanks at three railway stations in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as 90 tanks, six antitank guns, 19 howitzers, 16 mortars and three surface-to-air missile systems in non-government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in three training areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

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

Anti-tank mines near Verkhnoshyrokivske, Marinka and Donetsk city's Petrovskyi district, Donetsk region

On 12 March, an SMM mid-range UAV <u>again</u> spotted about 150 anti-tank mines in a field about 4km north of Verkhnoshyrokivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 14 March, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted 19 anti-tank mines laid across a road on the northern outskirts of Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Report of 5 May 2020).

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted at least 18 anti-tank mines, of which 12 across a local road and six along its northern edge, on the western outskirts of non-government-controlled Donetsk city's Petrovskyi district, about 200m north-west of residential houses, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Report of 25 February 2021).

On 15 March, on dirt roads about 1km and 2.5km north of Nevelske (government-controlled, 18km north-west of Donetsk), the Mission observed for the first time two mine hazard signs (red squares with white markings).

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the station, the SMM heard 65 ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable emergency repairs of power lines near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), in Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk) and in Khrystove (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk) as well as maintenance of power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and 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 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 traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was 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.

On the northern edge of Shchastia (about 2.7km north-west of the bridge), the SMM saw that the ground on the southern edge of a local road had been levelled and marked off with concrete blocks, reportedly to construct a parking lot for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

#### Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission did not observe any cars or pedestrians entering or exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, for about 15 minutes, the SMM observed three stationary trains (about 50 freight wagons each, cargo not visible).

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, 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, 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 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.

#### Denial:

- On 15 March, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas after the Mission refused twice to open its vehicles' doors and trunks and a trailer for a visual inspection. After nearly three hours of waiting, unable to proceed, the SMM returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city (see above and SMM Spot Report 3/2021).
- On the same day, at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area citing "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.

#### Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- On 14 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk) and Rubashkyne (non-government-controlled, 63km east of Donetsk), as well as dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 74km south-east of Donetsk) and Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), and between Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) and Baranivka (government-controlled, 41km north-west of Donetsk).
- On 15 March, an SMM-mini UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, once while flying over areas near Pervomaiske (government-controlled, 17km north-west of Donetsk) and twice while flying near Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km north of Donetsk).
- On the same day, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk).

<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' positions.

- On the same day, 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).

## Table of weapons

## Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation				
Government-controlled areas								
15/3/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	In Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	Patrol				
	Non-government-controlled areas							
12/3/2021		Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka	Mini-UAV				
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30 Lyagushka, 122mm)	(37km south-west of Luhansk)					

## Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation	
		Government-controlled	areas		
	19	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)		
15/3/2021	10	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 Grad)	At a railway station in Sloviansk (95km north of Donetsk)	Patrol	
	26	Tank (T-64)	At a railway station in Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, 67km north of Donetsk)		
		Non-government-controll	ed areas		
	30	Tank (21 T-64 and nine T-72)			
	6	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 Rapira, 100mm)	n a tuaining area maar Mymma (281cm		
	11	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 64 armoured combat vehicles <sup>8</sup>	Mini-UAV	
10/0/001	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)			
12/3/2021	8	Mortar (2B11 Sani, 120mm)			
	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 Strela-10)	In a training area near Buhaivka		
	28	Tank (19 T-64, seven T-72 and two type undetermined)	imagery also revealed the presence of		
	8	Mortar (2B11 Sani, 120mm)	63 armoured combat vehicles		
14/3/2021	29	Tank (four probable T-64, eight T-72 and 17 probable T-72)	In a training area near near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV	
	3	Tank (T-72)	Near Oleksandrivske (90km south-east of Donetsk)		

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this table 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 zone9

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation				
Government-controlled areas								
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Pyshchevyk (84km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV				
14/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk)					
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk)					
14/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near a residential area in Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV				
15/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BTR-3)	Near Vynohradne (101km south of Donetsk)	Patrol				
		Non-government-controlle	ed areas					
14/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Kalynove (60km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV				

<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 15 March 2021<sup>10</sup>

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 02:13
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	14-Mar, 22:47
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	14-Mar, 20:19
(government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	15-Mar, 01:27
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine	4-6km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 19:19
(non- government- controlled, 9km	4-6km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 19:20
NW of Donetsk city centre)	4-6km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 19:27
SMM camera	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 21:16
1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	14-Mar, 21:16
controlled,	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 21:21
100km S of	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 21:22
Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	14-Mar, 21:22
About 1.5km SE of Pervomaiske (government- controlled, 17km NW of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 09:45
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government- controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 11:34

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<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

Krasnohorivka (government-	1-3km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 12:20- 12:22
controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	1-3km E	Heard	9	Burst		HMG	15-Mar, 12:20- 12:22
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1km NNE	Heard	1	Shot		HMG	15-Mar, 09:02
	1km NNE	Heard	5	Shot		HMG	15-Mar, 09:26- 09:31
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government- controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 10:27
About 1km NW of the railway	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 10:25
Station in Yasynuvata (non- government- controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	15-Mar, 11:12- 11:15
	2-3km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	15-Mar, 11:24- 11:30
	2-3km SW	Heard	16	Burst		Small arms	15-Mar, 12:58- 13:00
	2-3km SW	Heard	25	Burst		HMG	15-Mar, 13:03- 13:07
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non- government- controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Mar, 13:57

#### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<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).