

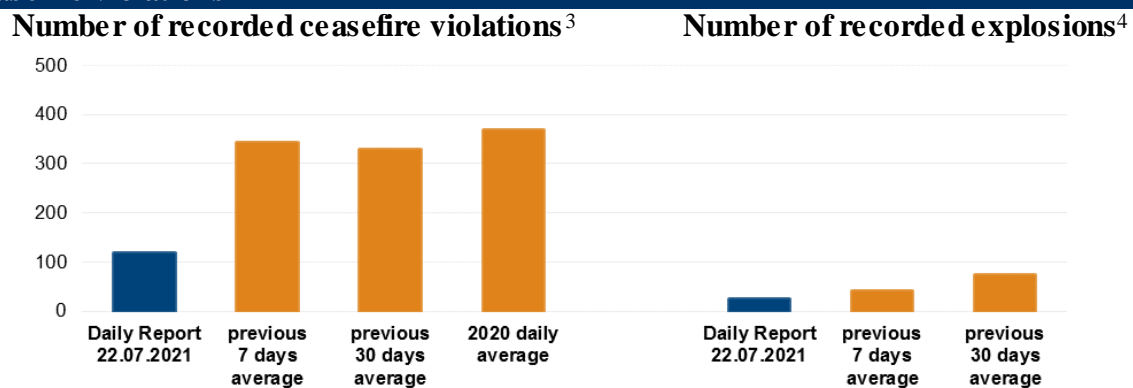
Daily Report 170/2021

23 July 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 102 ceasefire violations, including 12 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 98 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – an explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM saw damage due to small-arms fire to inhabited apartment in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at Mission’s mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) on two occasions near government-controlled Starohnativka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three 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 Donetsk region, and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation.
- The SMM’s freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at six checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 July 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

³ Including explosions.

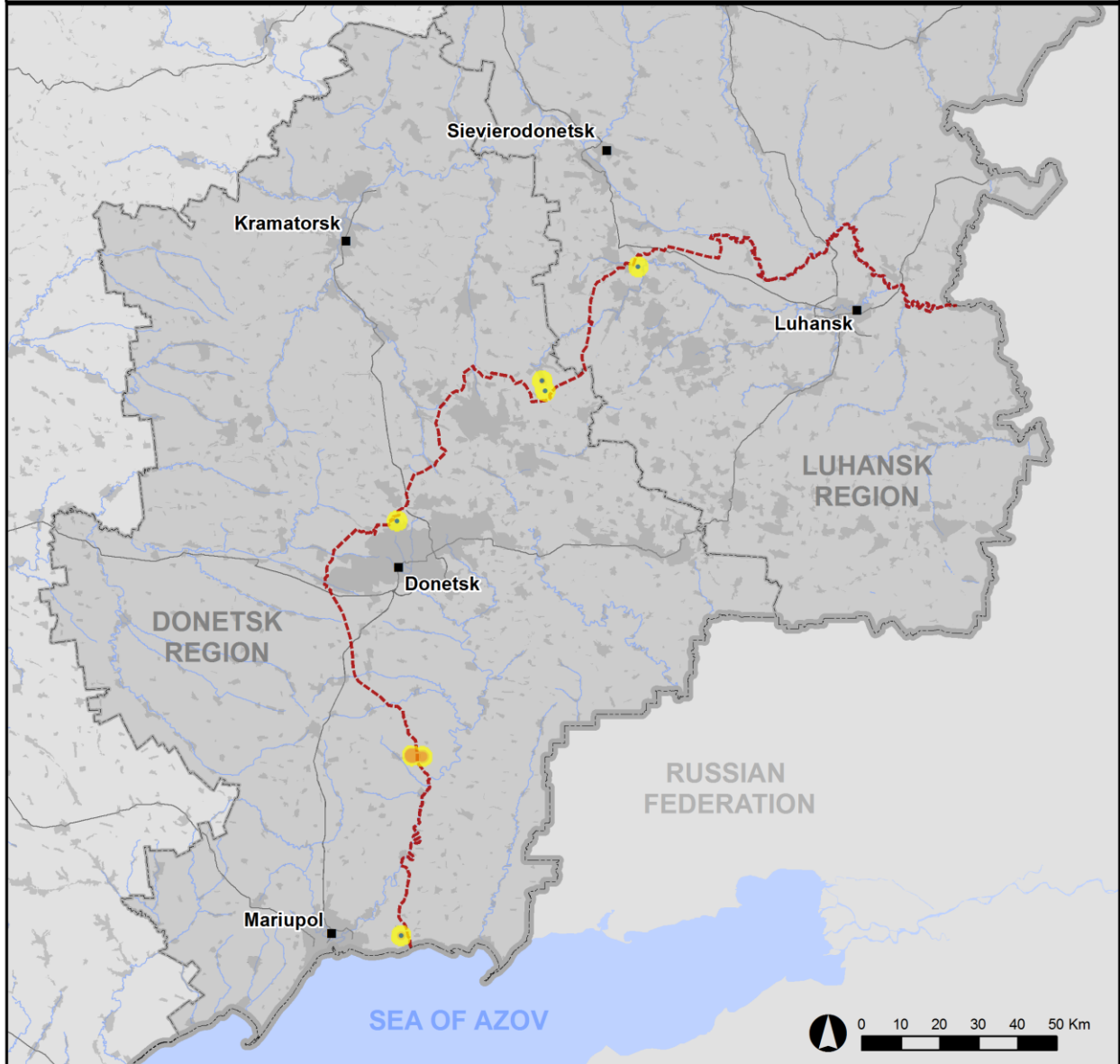
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

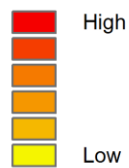


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 July 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: 23/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 102 ceasefire violations, including 12 explosions (11 undetermined and one airburst). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas east-north-east and east of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk) (see below) and in an area north-west of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 98 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion – which occurred in an area north-north-west of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 20 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 recorded at least 46,135 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,492 explosions, 8,710 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 169 illumination flares and at least 23,502 bursts and shots).

Damage to inhabited apartment in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region

On 21 July, the SMM followed-up on reports of damage to an inhabited apartment in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

At 5 Lizy Chaikinoi Street, in an inhabited apartment on the first floor of a two-storey building, the Mission observed glass fragments, a bullet (about 1.5cm in length), between the outer and inner glass panes of a west-facing window. The SMM assessed the damage as recent and caused by small-arms fire.

A man (in his fifties), who introduced himself as a resident of the apartment, told the Mission that on the evening of 16 July, he had been at home when he heard and saw a bullet hit the window.

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near government-controlled Starohnativka, Donetsk region

While positioned about 3.3km east of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 57 bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance 600m east-north-east, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying about 600m east-north-east of the SMM's position.

About 20 minutes later, while positioned at the same location to conduct an additional previously announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 24 shots and bursts of heavy-machine gun and small-arms fire at an assessed distance 3.2km east, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying about 3.2km east of the Mission's position over positions of the armed formations.

In both instances, the Mission landed the UAVs and left the area. (See below.)*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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

While positioned on the north-western edge of Berezivske, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range 1-2km north-north-west, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery.

Inside the disengagement area, in Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), the Mission observed a stationary military truck and three Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers (one of them visibly armed).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area.

The SMM also observed two members of the armed formations laying bricks on the wall of the fenced perimeter around five previously reported containers inside a fenced-off area south of the southern edge of the disengagement area.

While positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM 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 Mission saw 24 howitzers and an anti-tank gun in a training area near Buhaivka in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Beyond withdrawal lines, but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw four surface-to-air missile systems in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, as well as 70 tanks, seven mortars, 13 towed howitzers/mortars and four surface-to-air missile systems at two training areas near Miusynsk and near Buhaivka in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone

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

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

SMM facilitation of the operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, but 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 positioned at a border crossing point⁶ near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about an hour, the SMM observed 18 cars (including ten with “DPR” plates), one covered cargo truck (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying about 62 passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 29 pedestrians (16 women, 12 men of mixed ages, and a child) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it saw 23 cars (including 11 with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, with about 100 passengers of mixed genders and ages), and eight pedestrians (two women in their thirties and six men in their thirties and forties) exiting Ukraine.

While positioned at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about an hour, the Mission observed 21 cars (including 13 with “DPR” plates), 15 covered cargo trucks (including 11 with “DPR” plates), two buses (including one with “DPR” plates) and 24 pedestrians (12 women and ten men of mixed ages, and two children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM observed 14 cars (including nine with “DPR” plates), 11 covered cargo trucks (including nine with “DPR” plates) and two buses (with “DPR” plates, with about 70 passengers of mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Tarany (74km east of Donetsk), Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk), Oleksiivske (74km east of Donetsk), Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), Kuteinykove (42km south-east of Donetsk) and Ilovaisk (30km south-east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

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

⁶ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

***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 Coordination (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 21 July 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards the settlement, without providing any reason. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the training area, without providing any reason.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards Siedove (non-government-controlled, 106km south of Donetsk), citing “anti-terrorist operations in the area”.
- At another checkpoint of the armed formations about 3.5km north-east of Novoazovsk, two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westwards, citing “anti-terrorist operations in the area.” While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formation denied the Mission passage through the checkpoint, citing “ongoing engineering activities in the area.” While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south-west, citing “ongoing engineering activities in the area.”

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 impediments⁷:

- While conducting an SMM mini-UAV flight near Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard 57 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the mini-UAV. (See above.)
- While conducting a second mini-UAV flight near Starohnativka, the SMM heard 24 bursts of heavy-machine-gun and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the mini-UAV. (See above.)
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during a flight over areas near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four separate flights over areas near Byriuky (non-government-controlled, 28km south-east of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
21/7/2021	12	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	12	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/7/2021	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> , 210mm)	Near Kalynove (31km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/7/2021	46	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 47 armoured combat vehicles	Aerial imagery
	13	Towed howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		
21/7/2021	24	Tank (17 T-64 and seven T-72)	In a training area near Buhaivka, where imagery also revealed the presence of 38 armoured personnel carriers (36 MT-LB variants, including six with anti-aircraft gun ZU-23, 23mm, and two BTR-80), 45 infantry fighting vehicles (30 BMP-1 and 15 BMP-2), four armoured reconnaissance vehicles (three BRM-1K and one BRDM-2), one combat engineering vehicle and one towed anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) ⁸	Mini-UAV
	7	Towed mortar (six PM-38, 120mm, and one 2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		

Other weapons⁹

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/7/2021	2	Multiple launch rocket systems (type unknown)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/7/2021	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-variant)	Near a residential area of Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

⁹ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

¹⁰ 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 July 2021¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	21-Jul, 22:22
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	21-Jul, 22:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	21-Jul, 22:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	21-Jul, 22:26
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	6-8km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 11:18
About 3.3km E of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km S of Donetsk)	600m ENE	Heard	25	Shot		Small arms	22-Jul, 11:36
	600m ENE	Heard	32	Burst		Small arms	22-Jul, 11:36
	3.2km E	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	22-Jul, 11:58-11:59
	3.2km E	Heard	12	Burst		HMG	22-Jul, 11:58-11:59
About 1.5km ESE of Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 09:17
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Jul, 12:31-12:38
NW edge of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	1-2km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Jul, 15:47

¹¹ 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 regions¹²



¹² 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).