

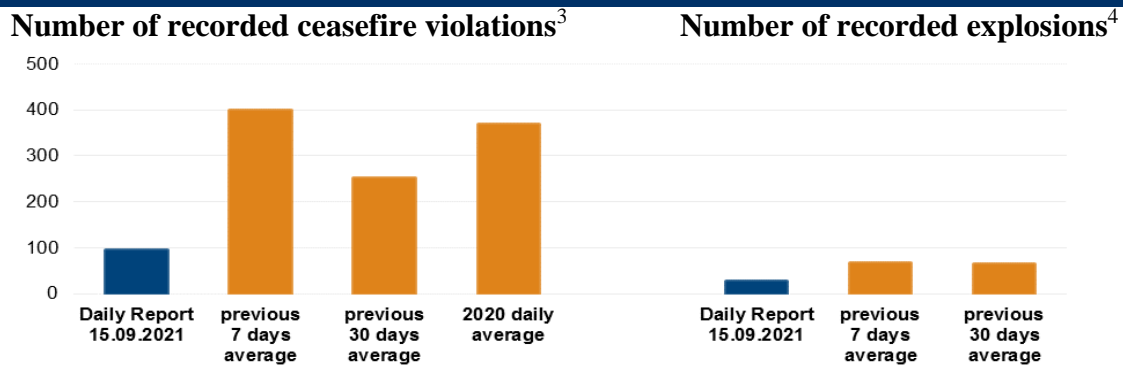
Daily Report 216/2021

15 September 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 90 ceasefire violations, including 23 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 88 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded five ceasefire violations, including three explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 67 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of two civilians injured due to shelling in non-government-controlled Dokuchaievsk, Donetsk region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Hirske, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and recorded ceasefire violations close to the disengagement area near Zolote and inside and close to the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires 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 the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



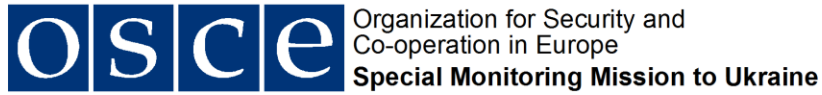
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

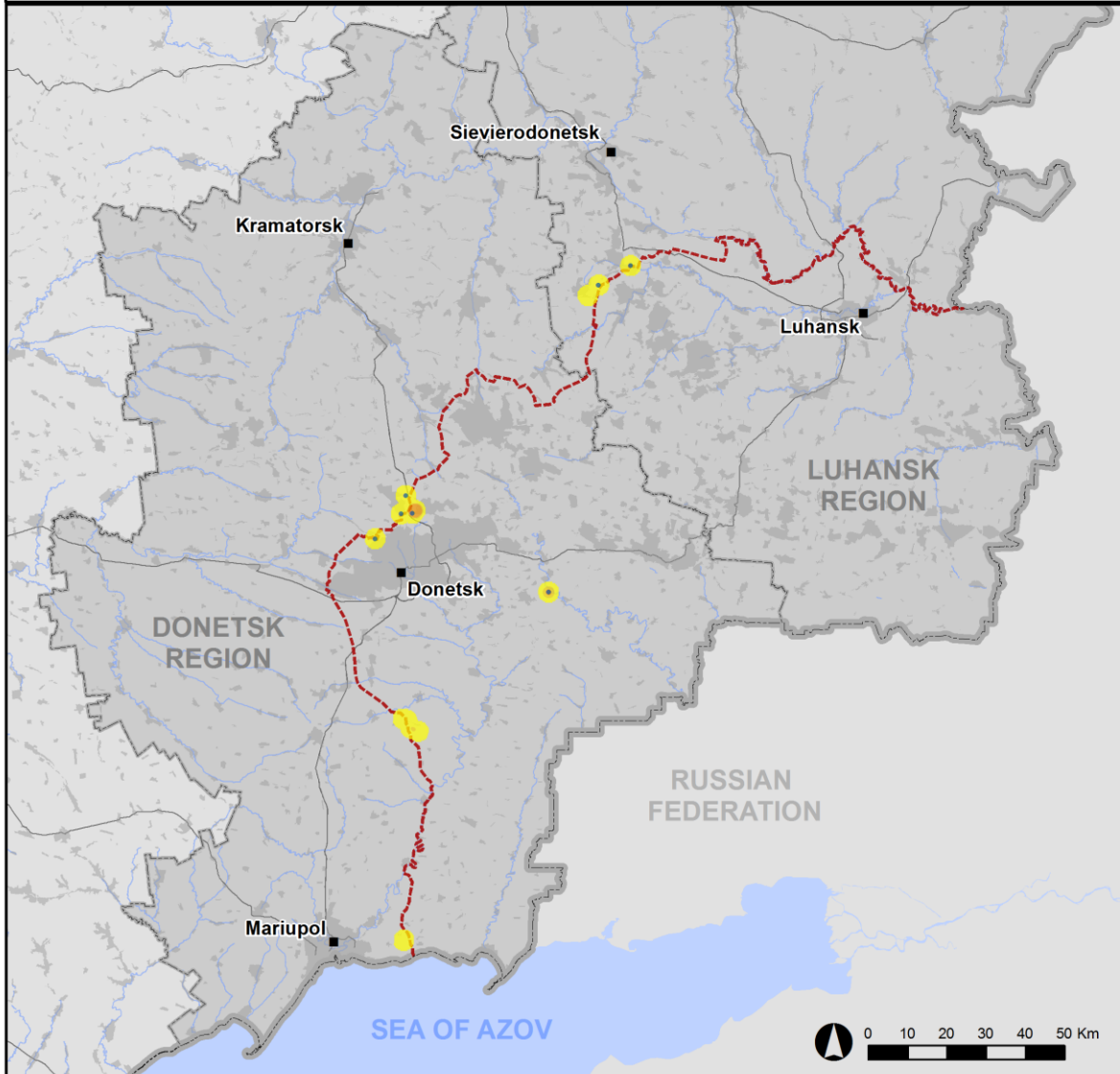
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

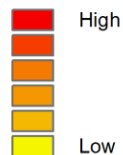
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 14 September 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 15/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 90 ceasefire violations, including 23 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred around the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), inside and close to the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below), as well as at southerly directions of Pivche (non-government-controlled, 38km east of Donetsk), which were assessed as part of a live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#) the Mission recorded 88 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred around the DFS and inside and close to the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded five ceasefire violations, including three explosions (one airburst, one impact, and one undetermined). All ceasefire violations occurred at south-easterly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and close to the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 67 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred in areas south-east of Popasna and close to the disengagement area near Zolote.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the Mission has recorded at least 57,308 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,102 explosions, 11,035 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 226 illumination flares and at least 29,675 bursts and shots).

Two civilians injured due to shelling in Dokuchaievsk, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a man and a woman injured in Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk).

On September 12, a man (in his sixties), told the SMM over the phone that, on the morning of 11 September, he was in the basement of his building at 41A Lenina Street, when he had heard an object strike the outside wall of the building and then felt pain in his arm and leg.

On the same day, a woman (in her fifties) told the Mission over the phone that, on the morning of 11 September she heard shelling nearby. After it stopped, she left her apartment opposite 41A Lenina Street when she heard another loud explosion. According to her, something hit the wall of 41A Lenina Street, and she saw and felt that she suffered injuries to her shoulder and torso.

On 11 September, medical staff at a hospital in Dokuchaievsk told the SMM over the phone that, on that day, a man (in his sixties) and a woman (in her fifties) had both been admitted to the hospital with multiple shrapnel injuries.

The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-UAV near Hirske, Luhansk region

On 13 September, the SMM was positioned on the eastern edge of Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. From 12:02 to 12:12, while the UAV was flying over an area about 3km west of the SMM's position, the aircraft experienced signal interference, after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. The SMM was not able to retrieve the UAV and subsequently left the area.*

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 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).

On the evening of 13 September, the SMM cameras in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) and Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded three explosions (one undetermined, one impact, one airburst) and one projectile in flight, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 14 September, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

On the night of 13-14 September, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded six projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**.

On the evening of 13 September, the SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) recorded four projectiles in flight and one illumination flare, all at an assessed range of 400m-1.5km west-northwest assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

During the day on 14 September, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka, the Mission heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as inside the disengagement area.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw eight tanks and two howitzers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. It also saw 35 tanks and 14 howitzers in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission saw three armoured combat vehicles in a residential area of government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of mines near government-controlled Maiorsk, Donetsk region

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

On 11 September, about 1.5km south-south-east of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted two previously reported probable anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, laid across a local road. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 17 June 2020](#).)

SMM facilitation of the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, the SMM heard 52 ceasefire violations, including six undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission 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.

On 14 September, while positioned at the EECP near Shchastia, the Mission saw a convoy consisting of two vehicles and one truck without a trailer, bearing the logo of a humanitarian organization, driving towards non-government-controlled areas.

On the same day, while positioned at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations, the SMM saw one stationary truck without a trailer in the area, bearing the logo of the same humanitarian organization.

Border areas outside government control

At a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 90 minutes, the SMM observed 26 cars (including 17 with "DPR" plates), two buses (both with "DPR" plates and carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 61 people (28 women, 30 men of mixed ages, and three children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission also observed 19 cars (including 11 with "DPR" plates), six covered cargo trucks (including two with "DPR" plates), three buses (with "DPR" plates, all of which carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages, including a group of school children), three minibuses (all with "DPR" plates and carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 70 people (32 women, 38 men of mixed ages) exiting Ukraine on foot.

Also on the same day, the Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Manych (76km east of Donetsk) and Novoukrainske (77km east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

On 14 September, while at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed one truck (with "LPR" plates) entering Ukraine and 22 people (seven women, 15 men of mixed ages) exiting Ukraine. After about five minutes, two members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed five cars, two covered cargo trucks (both with "DPR" plates) and eight people (three women and five men of mixed ages) entering Ukraine. After about twelve minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

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 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 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.

Denials:

- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations members told the Mission to leave the area.
- At a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), one member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave 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 impediments:⁶

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during nine flights: twice over areas near Byriuky (non-government-controlled, 28km south-east of Donetsk), over Pivche (non-government-controlled, 38km east of Donetsk) and over Vrubiivka (government-controlled, 72km west of Luhansk), respectively, then once over areas near Mykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 15km east of Luhansk), over Komyshuvakha (government-controlled, 68km west of Luhansk) and over Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk) respectively.
- Four SMM mid-range UAV flights were cancelled due to GPS signal interference, assessed

⁶ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

as caused by probable jamming, near Pivche and near Byriuky.

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk), after which the Mission lost spatial control of the aircraft. The SMM was not able to retrieve 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				
11/9/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Berezivka (44km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
13/9/2021	8	Tank (T-64)	In Spirne (96km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
9/9/2021	35	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 57 armoured combat vehicles. ⁷	Aerial imagery
	14	Towed howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
13/9/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a residential area in Orlivske (82km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

⁷ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

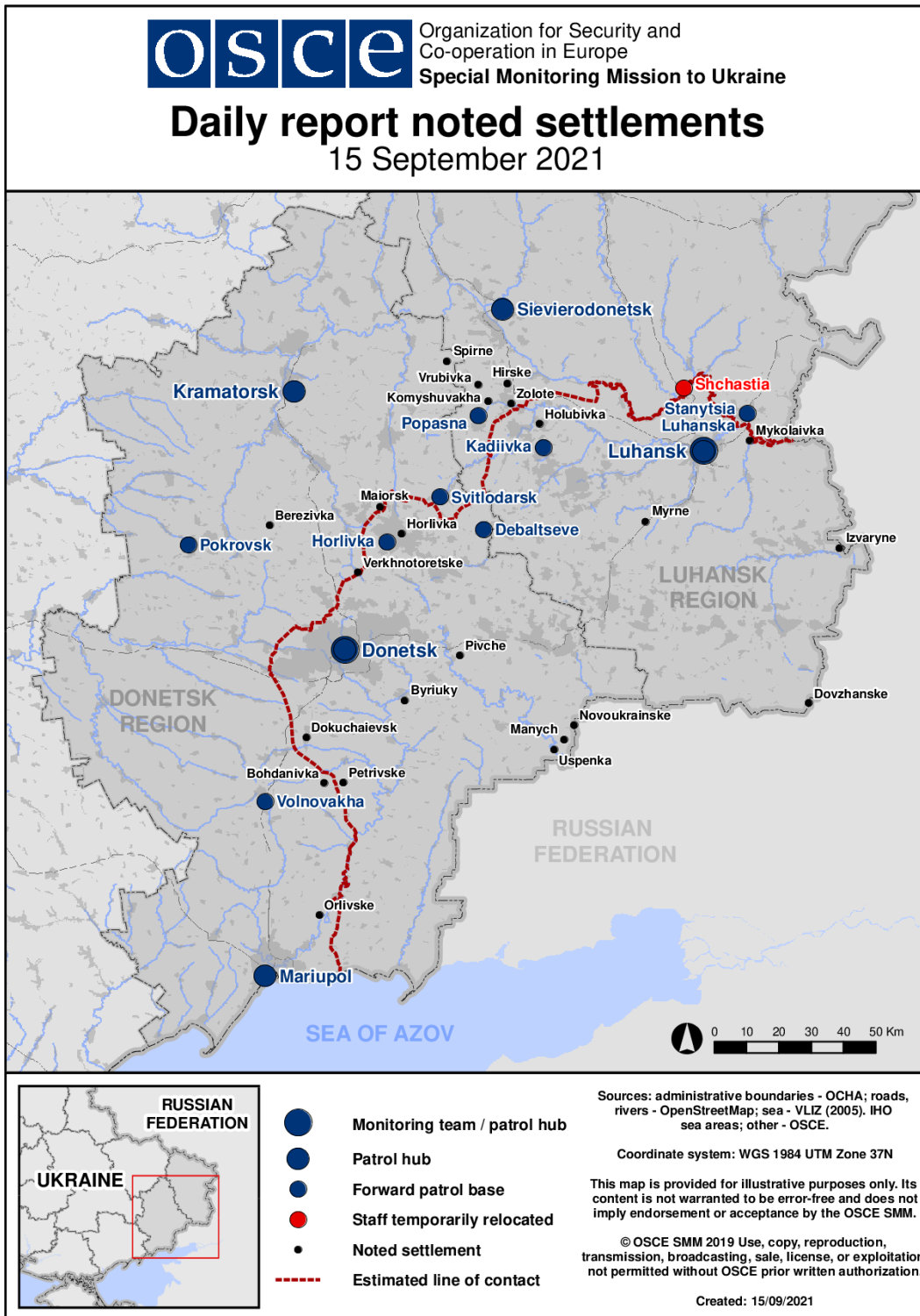
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 14 September 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdaniivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	13-Sep, 21:45
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	14-Sep, 01:51
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-3km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Sep, 23:12
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	400m-1.5km WNW	Recorded	4	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	13-Sep, 21:42
	400-800m WNW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	13-Sep, 23:58
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	13-Sep, 23:14
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Sep, 10:45
	4-6km WSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Sep, 10:45
	1-2km SW	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	14-Sep, 13:08-13:20
	1-2km SW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	14-Sep, 13:21-13:27
	1-2km SW	Heard	3	Burst			14-Sep, 13:21-13:27
	1-2km SW	Heard	16	Burst		Small arms	14-Sep, 14:13-14:23
	1-2km SW	Heard	14	Shot		Small arms	14-Sep, 14:13-14:23
About 3km SSE of Pivche (non-government-controlled, 38km E of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Sep, 11:26-11:32
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Sep, 10:46
About 2km E of Bohdaniivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	14-Sep, 15:28
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	13-Sep, 21:00
	4-6km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	13-Sep, 21:00
	4-6km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	13-Sep, 21:00
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event, (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	13-Sep, 21:00
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	13-Sep, 20:29
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	13-Sep, 20:29
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	13-Sep, 20:29

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).