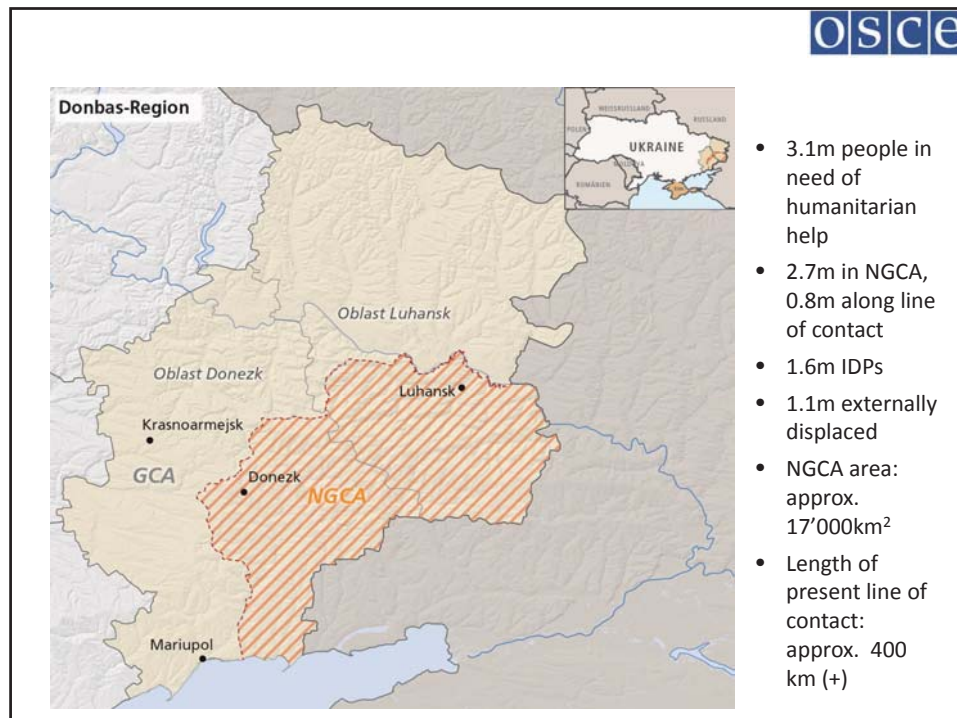


Promoting Connectivity and Economic and Environmental Cooperation for Regional Security

(from the perspective of the Minsk negotiations on Donbas)

Ambassador Martin Sajdik
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

Prague, 8 September, 2017



Connectivity is indispensable to tackle people's problems

- No choice *not* to address humanitarian problems
 - Obvious humanitarian urgency (25.000 crossings/day)
 - Low wages, low or no pensions
 - Heavily damaged infrastructure
 - Importance of preserving family links
 - Political necessity to modernise GCA (setting up Ukraine's 'storefront')

- **Economic cooperation inevitable** because contact line artificially cuts through grown infrastructure and geography



Specific challenges to connectivity in Donbas

- No permanent **ceasefire**
- Disruption of personal links: **cumbersome crossing** procedures
- **No** effort concerning **dialogue** and **reconciliation** at community / societal level
- Interruption of **banking** relations
- Some of NGCA's economic choices (supplies to/ from Russia) encourage further **disruption**



Blockade and “External Management”

- March 2017: transport links cut off, railway split, **no more trade in coal** and electricity, currency split
- Dual character of connectivity
- Economic rationale vs. **energy independence**
- How will Ukraine do in winter?



Alchevsk MetKombinat



Komsomolets Donbassa

Thank you.

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Backup 1: Connectivity is needed to support the overall peace process

- **Confidence-building**: easier to find common ground in economic (and environmental) issues
- May create **positive dynamics**
- **Shared interests** keep the sides at the negotiation table
- **'Makes the pie bigger'**: easier for the sides to accept package solutions

➤ **Connectivity is important for the general political task**