The security situation in eastern Ukraine remains tense. From 18 September to 1 October the OSCE SMM registered a slight increase in the number of ceasefire violations. Violence was concentrated around three hotspots: 1) the areas south-west, south and south-east of Svitlodarsk, 2) the areas east and north-east of Mariupol, and 3) the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area.

The SMM noted a reduction in the number of civilian casualties. During the reporting period, the SMM confirmed seven civilians injured. This brings the total number of civilian casualties in 2017 to 394, including 69 fatalities.

SMM monitors, in co-ordination with the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination, contributed to an improved humanitarian situation through the facilitation and monitoring of localized adherence to the ceasefire. From 18 September to 1 October, these “windows of silence” allowed for repair and maintenance work to the thermal power plant in Shchastia, water pipelines in Zolote, water wells near Krasnyi Lyman and Stanytsia Luhanska, power lines between Yuzhna Lomuvatka and Veselohorivka, the Petrivske water pumping station, power lines just east of Luhanske and water supply pipes between Marinka and Oleksandrivka. In total, the Mission conducted at least 44 patrols in support of such activities on both sides of the contact line.

Two years ago, the OSCE SMM opened its first forward patrol bases in Volnovakha and Novoaidar, in eastern Ukraine. Read more: www.osce.org/stories/forward-patrol-bases-two-years-on-the-contact-line

SMM daily reports are available in three languages (English, Russian and Ukrainian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.