

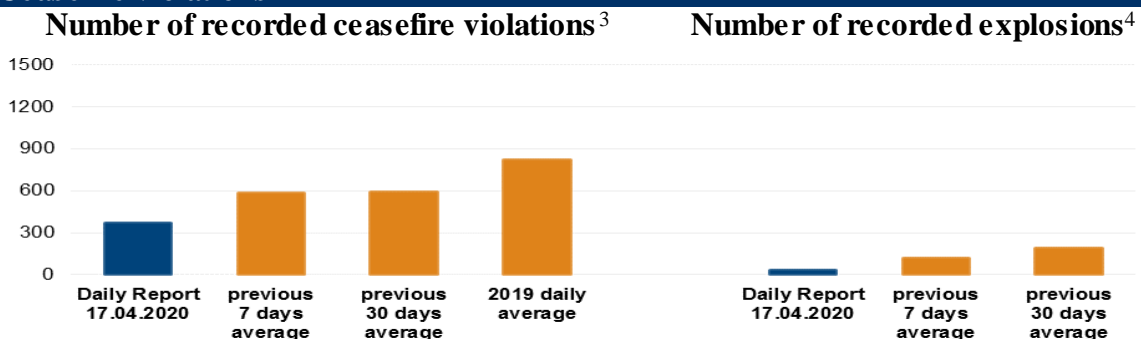
# Daily Report 91/2020

17 April 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and more in Luhansk region.
- Members of the armed formations continued to deny the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas at a checkpoint near Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region as well as towards government-controlled areas at a checkpoint south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, Luhansk region.\*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission monitored and facilitated adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line, as well as demining activities, including at cemeteries in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored the mutual release and exchange of detainees related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- Members of the armed formations continued to restrict the SMM's freedom of movement, including near Sakhanka and at a checkpoint near Starolaspa, Donetsk region.\*

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



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 April 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras at the Oktiabr mine were not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

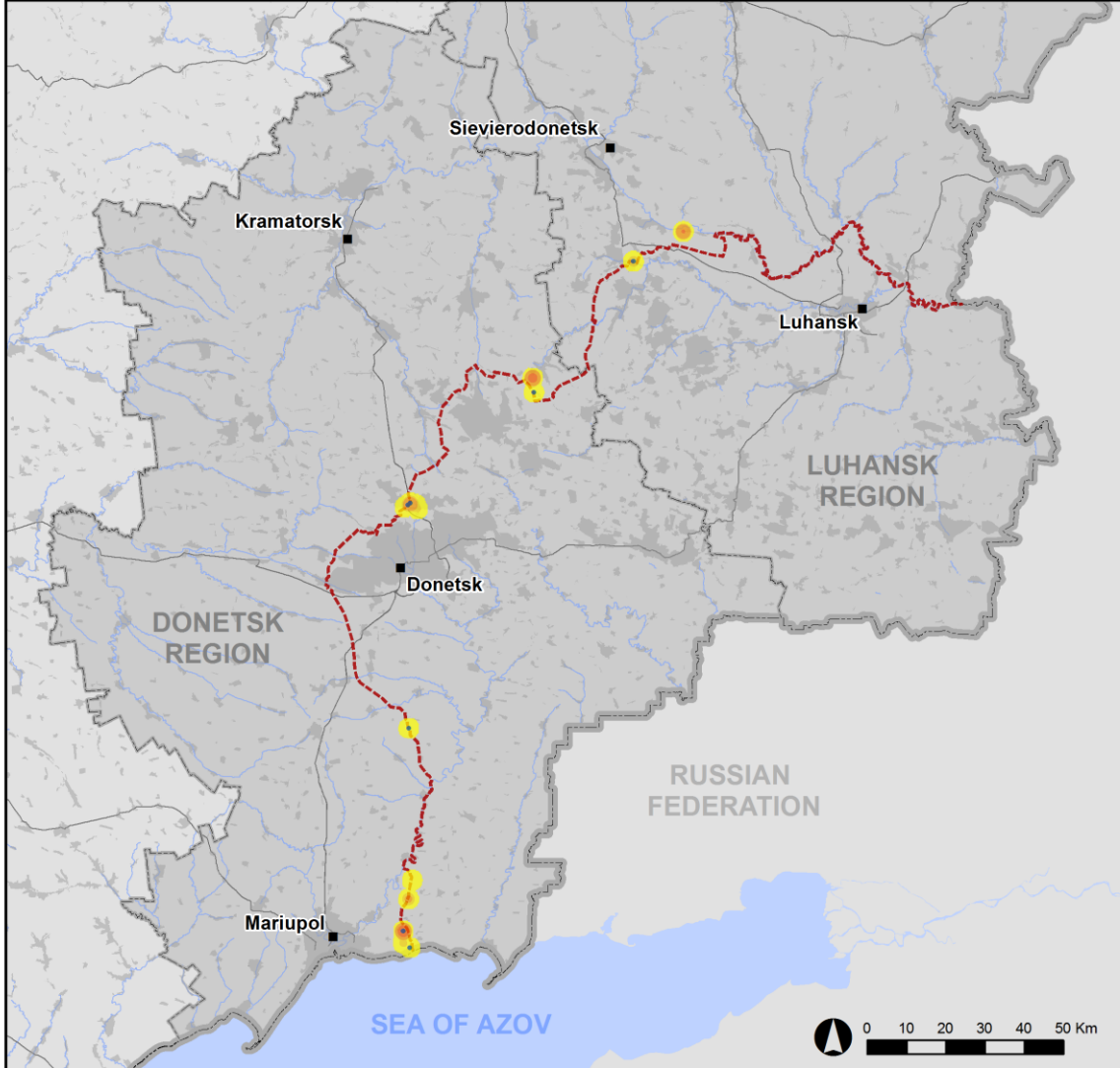
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

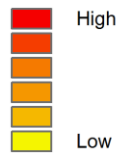


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 April 2020



#### 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: 17/04/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (25), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (57 explosions). More than two-thirds of ceasefire violations were recorded at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas south of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded more ceasefire violations and a similar number of explosions (eight), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (ten explosions). Almost all ceasefire violations were recorded in areas south of Muratove (government-controlled, 51km north-west of Luhansk).

### **Members of the armed formations continued to deny SMM passage at checkpoints along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions**

Members of the armed formations continued to deny the Mission passage at checkpoints in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions along official crossing routes. These restrictions constitute an impediment to the implementation of the Mission's mandate.<sup>5</sup>

At a checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas, citing the closure of the checkpoint due to COVID-19-related measures (see [SMM Spot Report 13/2020](#)).\*

At a checkpoint near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, citing quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19 (see [SMM SMM Spot Report 11/2020](#)).\*

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>6</sup>**

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 15km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM [again](#) saw four booths south of the checkpoint of the armed formations and south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge. At the same checkpoint, a member of the armed formation (wearing an armband with "JCCC" written on it) told the SMM that the booths would be used to check people and goods crossing the checkpoint.

On the evening and night between 15 and 16 April, the SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) recorded eight undetermined explosions and five projectiles in flight, all at an assessed range of 4-6km east and assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery. On 16 April, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near the southern edge of the disengagement area.

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<sup>5</sup> The Mission began facing repeated denials when attempting to cross into non-government-controlled areas at checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region on 21 March and Luhansk region on 23 March. For more information, see SMM Daily and Spot Reports.

<sup>6</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

On 16 April, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM heard an explosion at an assessed range of 3-4km south-east and assessed as a controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

### **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.

### **Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone<sup>7</sup>**

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in the security zone in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including within residential areas (for further details, see the table below).

### **Situation of civilians and measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and checkpoints of the armed formations to counter COVID-19 outbreak**

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and the checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka remained closed.\*

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge remained closed.\* Near the EECP, a woman (aged 75) accompanied by her husband (aged 70-80) told the SMM that they had come to the EECP after her husband was released from the hospital and that they had been waiting to return home to non-government-controlled areas as they had no place to stay in government-controlled areas.

At a checkpoint on the boundary line between Luhansk and Donetsk regions near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw two cars with “DPR” plates passing through towards Donetsk region and four covered cargo trucks queuing in the direction of Luhansk region. The SMM saw that checkpoints of the armed formations on the boundary line between Luhansk and Donetsk regions near Snizhne (72km east of Donetsk), Nikishyne (60km north-east of Donetsk) and Debaltseve (on road M-03) were all closed. Members of the armed formations told the SMM that only the aforementioned checkpoint near Debaltseve was open to civilian traffic.

On the eastern edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw for the first time a checkpoint consisting of five concrete blocks placed across road H-32, through which civilian cars were not allowed to proceed towards and from Pervomaisk. The SMM proceeded towards Pervomaisk after two of the members of the armed formations disinfected its vehicles for about five minutes. On the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote, a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it) told the SMM that civilian traffic (except for emergency and food delivery vehicles) towards and from Pervomaisk was being blocked at the aforementioned checkpoint to counter the COVID-19 outbreak.

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<sup>7</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

### **SMM facilitation of demining activities and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure**

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and near Raivka (16km north-west of Luhansk); construction of a power line near the EECF near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk); and demining activities in Krasnyi Yar (non-government-controlled, 12km north-east of Luhansk). While positioned on the north-western edge of Stanytsia Luhanska, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km south of its position and assessed as controlled detonations related to demining activities in Krasnyi Yar.

The Mission also monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities at eight cemeteries in government-controlled areas in Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk), Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk) and Sartana (91km south of Donetsk), all on 16 April, and in Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk) on 15 and 16 April.

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). On 16 April, while positioned at a location near the station, and despite security guarantees having been provided for a localized ceasefire, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion and bursts and shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

### **The SMM facilitated and monitored the mutual release and exchange of detainees related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine**

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires in both government- and non-government-controlled areas during the mutual release and exchange of detainees related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine from non-government- to government-controlled areas in Luhansk region and from government- to non-government-controlled areas, and in the opposite direction, in Donetsk region.

The Mission 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 and 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 Package of Measures 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 [SMM Daily Report 28 March 2020](#)). 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 of access:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations again denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas, citing the closure of the checkpoint due to COVID-19-related measures (see [SMM Spot Report 13/2020](#)).
- At a checkpoint near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations again denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, citing quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19 (see [SMM Spot Report 11/2020](#)).
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations on the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations again told the SMM that if it travelled towards government-controlled areas SMM members would be subject to a ten-day quarantine when returning to non-government-controlled areas. The Mission did not travel towards government-controlled areas.
- Near a military-type position of the armed formations on road T-0504 close to Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk), an armed member of the armed formations again told the SMM that if it travelled towards government-controlled areas SMM members would be subject to a ten-day quarantine when returning to non-government-controlled areas. The Mission did not travel towards government-controlled areas.
- On a road about 2km south-east of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) an armed members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area citing "orders from superiors".
- At a checkpoint about 1km north-east of Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), two armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage through it, citing "engineering works" and "orders from superiors". While present, the SMM saw civilian vehicles crossing the checkpoint.

*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:

- On 16 April, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pervomaiske (non-government-controlled, 59km south of Donetsk).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The interference could have occurred within a radius of several kilometres from the UAV's position.



**Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>9</sup>**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Source of observation</b>
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
15/04/2020	2	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Novoselivka (31km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	
	6	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (undetermined variant)	In a residential area of Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Pervomaiske (17km north-west of Donetsk)	
16/04/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

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<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 16 April 2020<sup>10</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	16-Apr, 02:57
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 21:01
	500-800m S	Recorded	5	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	15-Apr, 21:04
	500-800m S	Recorded	4	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 21:05
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Apr, 21:08
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 21:08
	500-800m S	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 21:11
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	15-Apr, 21:35
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:36
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	15-Apr, 21:36
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:38
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:40
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 21:40
	500-800m S	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 21:42
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:42
	500-800m S	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Apr, 21:43
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	ENE to WSW	N/K	15-Apr, 21:44
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Apr, 21:54
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Apr, 21:54
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Apr, 21:59
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Apr, 21:59
500-800m S	Recorded	3	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	15-Apr, 22:37	
500-800m S	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 22:37	
500-800m S	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Apr, 22:37	
500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	15-Apr, 22:37	
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	10	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	16-Apr, 03:28
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	6	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	16-Apr, 03:50
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	16-Apr, 03:51
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	3	Projectile	N to S	N/K	15-Apr, 21:05
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 20:35
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:31
	5-7km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 21:56
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 22:05

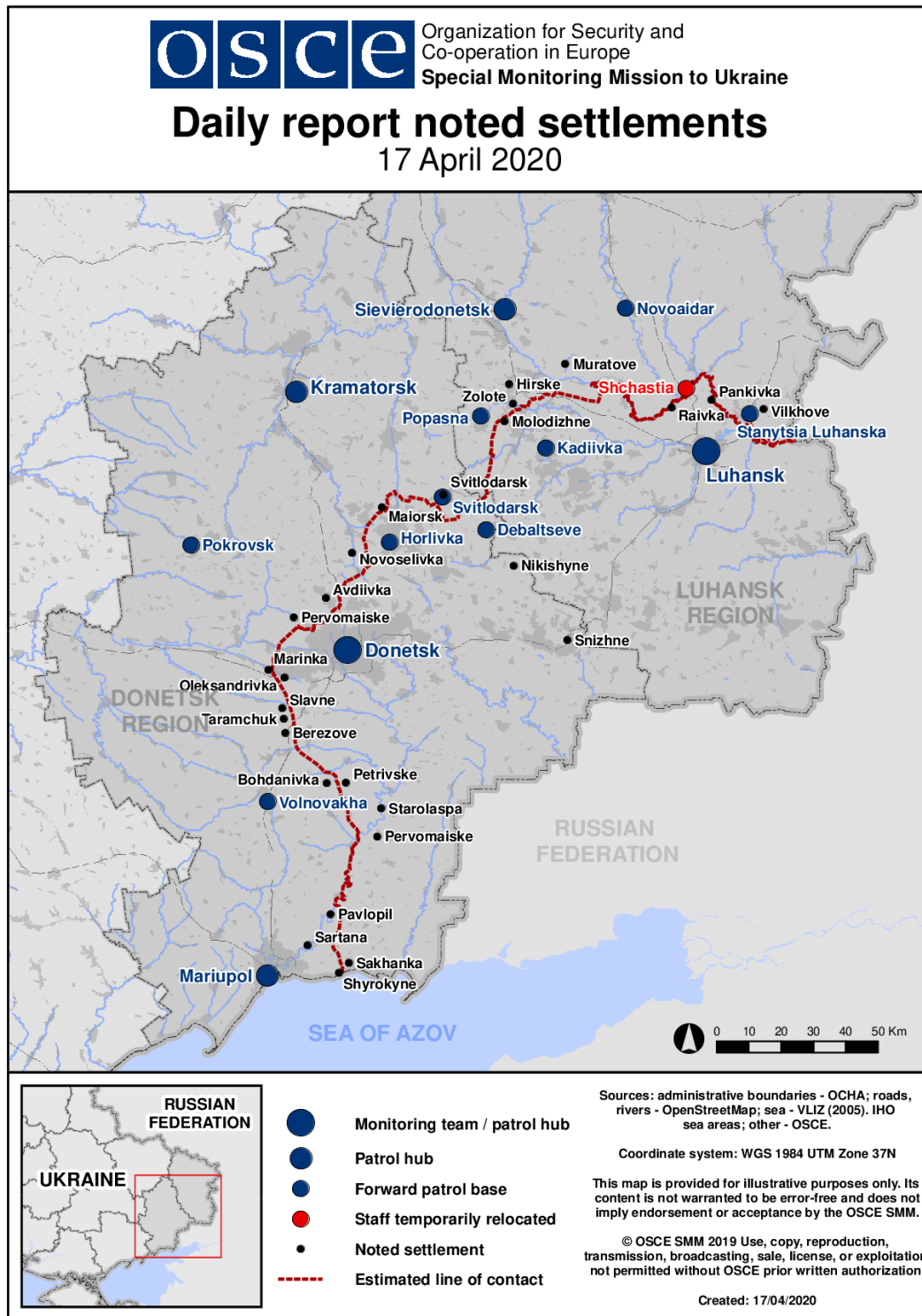
<sup>10</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based 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.



controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Apr, 22:29
	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Apr, 22:30
	5-7km N	Recorded	10	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 22:32
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Apr, 22:48
	5-7km N	Recorded	10	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Apr, 22:49
	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Apr, 22:51
	5-7km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Apr, 22:52
	5-7km N	Recorded	8	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Apr, 22:53
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Apr, 23:28
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 00:11
	5-7km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 00:12
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 00:27
	5-7km N	Recorded	9	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 00:28
	5-7km N	Recorded	8	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 00:29
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 00:45
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 00:49
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 00:56
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:06
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:16
	5-7km N	Recorded	9	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:20
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:30
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 01:31
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:31
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:33
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:35
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:36
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:39
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Apr, 01:51
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	16-Apr, 02:35
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	16-Apr, 02:51
5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	16-Apr, 02:52	
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 11:37-12:00
	1-2km SW	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	16-Apr, 11:37-12:00
	3-4km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 11:37-12:00
About 3km NW Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk)	3-4km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Apr, 11:45-13:00
	1-2km W	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 11:45-13:00
About 1km SW Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	16-Apr, 11:50
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km S	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 19:01-19:02
S edge of Svitolodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Heard	23	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 13:17-13:18
	1-2km S	Heard	56	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 13:24-13:26
	1-2km S	Heard	16	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 13:31-13:32
	1-2km S	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	16-Apr, 13:31-13:32

SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Apr, 20:18
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Apr, 20:28
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Apr, 20:38
	4-6km E	Recorded	5	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Apr, 20:51
	4-6km E	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Apr, 20:51
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Apr, 04:13
About 2.5km S of Muratove (government-controlled, 51km NW of Luhansk)	3km S	Heard	64	Shot		Small arms	16-Apr, 10:10-11:05

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup>The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chemivtsi, 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).