



Daily Report 200/2020

22 August 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (in the previous reporting period, it recorded 153 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region).
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle observed persons during evening hours inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points and an area near the border with the Russian Federation, all in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations^{2,3}

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, compared with 153 in the [previous reporting period](#).

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it also recorded none. The SMM last recorded ceasefire violations in Luhansk region between the evenings of 18 and 19 August (see [SMM Daily Report 20 August 2020](#)).

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 634 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 92 explosions, two projectiles in flight, six illumination flares and 534 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁴

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) on the southern edge of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 20 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner. Also inside the area, the same UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner.

During the day on 21 August, 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), three of whom entered and walked about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returned.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 400m south of its southern edge, the SMM observed 20 workers with heavy construction equipment conducting groundworks on road T-1316, as well as six workers with shovels, reportedly preparing a parking area.

Also on the same day, while positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

² During the reporting period, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, therefore the report does not contain the chart presenting trends or the map of ceasefire violations.

³ During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske, Zolote and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

⁴ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM continued monitoring 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 zone⁵

On 21 August the SMM observed armed combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as upgrades to existing positions on both sides of the contact line in areas near Petrivske (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 20 August, about 200m north of a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), the SMM saw four workers conducting geodesic measurements in a former parking lot, reportedly in preparation of construction works (see below).

On 21 August, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations for construction works south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above) and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

On the same day, the SMM also continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance, inspection and repairs to power lines near Vesela Hora and near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk) and Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance works to the phenol sludge reservoir near Pivdenne as well as demining activities on the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia.

Also on the same day, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of and repairs to the Donetsk Filtration Station, and to monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter COVID-19 outbreak

In Donetsk region, the SMM saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), were operational.

While at the EECP near Novotroitske between 08:50 and 15:10, the Mission saw nine cars, one bus and about 40 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including a child) entering

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

government-controlled areas. It also saw eight cars and 57 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including a child) travelling in the opposite direction.

In front of the EECP near Novotroitske ten people (mixed genders and ages) told the SMM that they had been waiting near the EECP to cross to non-government-controlled areas for several weeks and did not know when the necessary documents would arrive.

At a bus stop near the most forward position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), on the same crossing route, the Mission saw an ambulance arrive to treat a man (in his sixties) and a woman (in her fifties) both in need of medical assistance, who had been travelling from non-government-controlled areas.

At the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka between 09:10 and 15:15, the SMM saw about ten cars, two buses and 45 people (mixed genders and ages, including five children) travelling towards government-controlled areas. The Mission also observed a bus and a van (with about 50 and 20 people, respectively, mixed genders and ages), being escorted by members of the armed formations (in one vehicle) towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city as well as four pedestrians (two women with two infants), travelling in the same direction.

At the checkpoint, a woman (in her sixties) told the SMM that she had been coming to the checkpoint for a month, to receive documents allowing her to cross into government-controlled areas.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and its corresponding checkpoint south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at about 10:15 and 11:15, the SMM saw no people queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 550 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw that one golf cart was transporting people between the EECP and the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about one hour, the SMM saw 15 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates), one covered cargo truck, one bus with “DPR” plates (45 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 30 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. The SMM also saw 17 cars (including seven with “DPR” plates), one covered cargo truck, and two buses with “DPR” plates (about 35 and 45 passengers, respectively, mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine. While present at the border crossing point, the SMM also observed a group of ten men in military-type clothing exit Ukraine showing identification cards and no passports to members of the armed formations, including a man on crutches and a man in a wheelchair.

At the pedestrian border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission noted that there was no one present, and that the border crossing point appeared to be closed.

The SMM also monitored areas near Manych (76km east of Donetsk) and observed calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, Odessa, 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 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 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 18 August 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.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the Mission 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 20 August, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Brianka (non-government-controlled, 46km south-west of Luhansk) and Mykolaivka Druha (government-controlled, 55km north of Donetsk).⁶

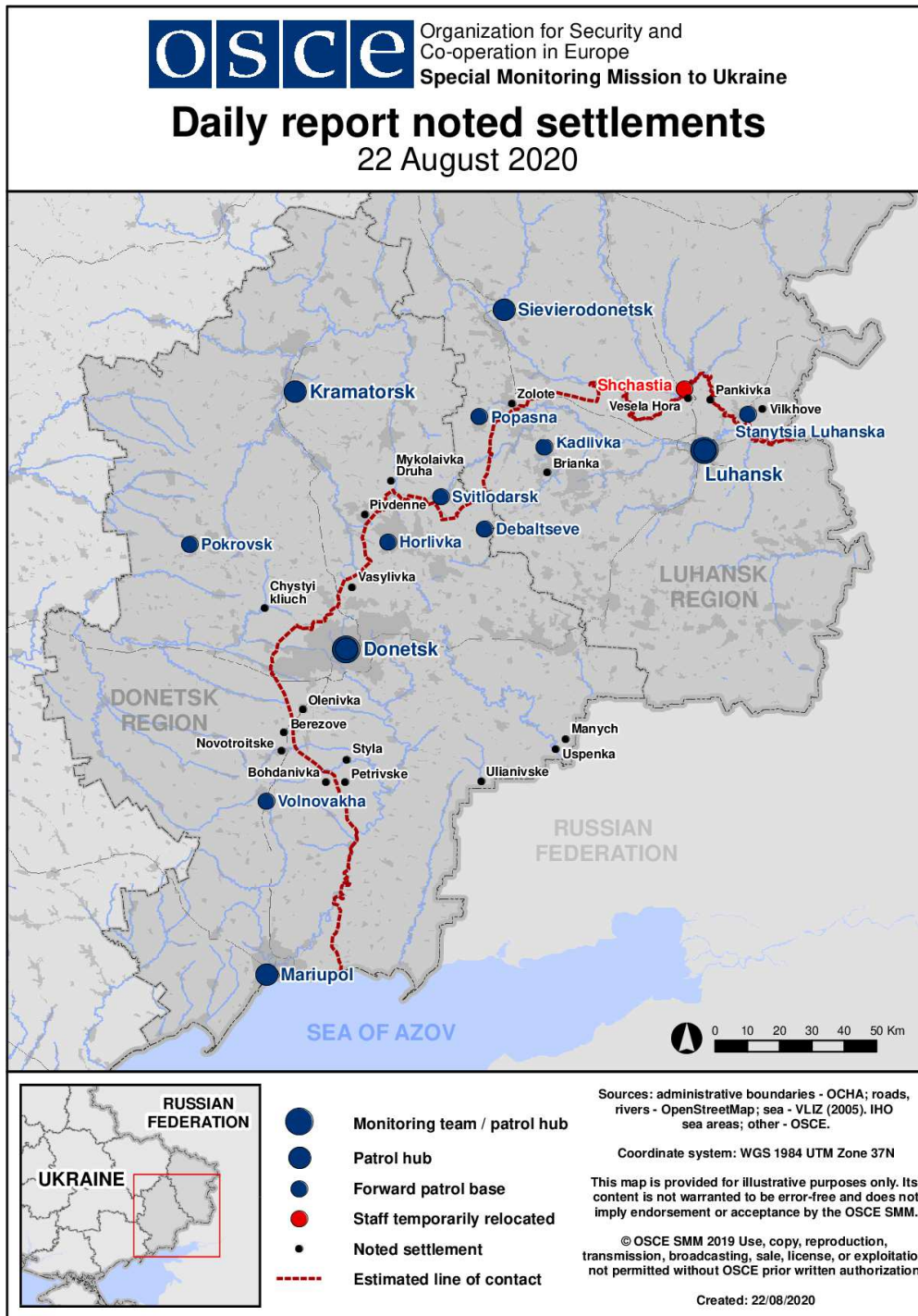
⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of several kilometres of the UAV's position.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
20/08/2020	-	Ongoing upgrades of a military position (stack of construction material visible)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk), about 250m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Petrivske (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report 20 August 2020)	Mini-UAV
21/08/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	In residential area of Chystyi Kliuch (26km north-west of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/08/2020	-	Recent probable upgrades to two existing bunkers (not seen in imagery from 2 March 2020)	Near Styla (34km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁸



⁸ 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 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.)