



Daily Report 213/2020

7 September 2020¹

Summary

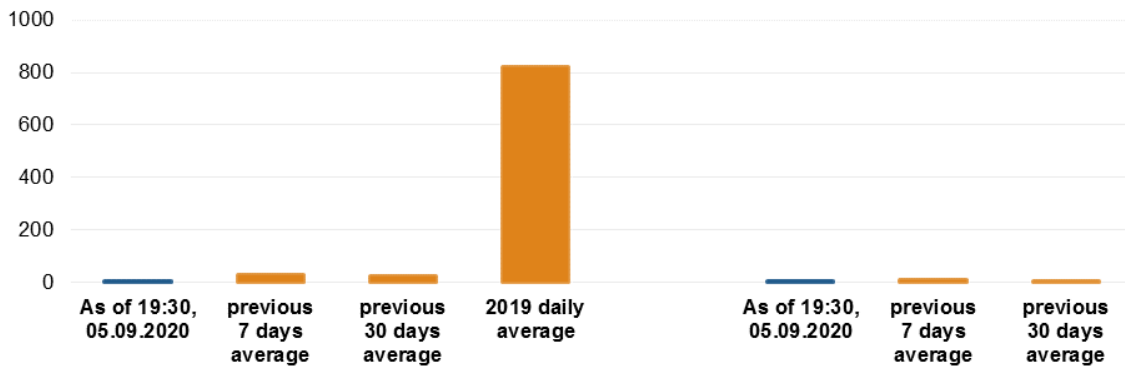
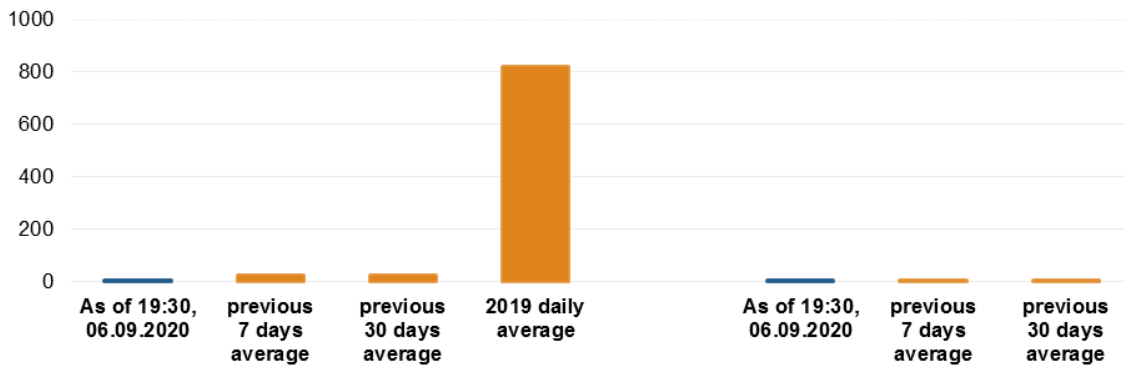
- Between the evenings of 4 and 5 September, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion in Donetsk region and no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded 12 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- Between the evenings of 5 and 6 September, the Mission again recorded an undetermined explosion in Donetsk region and again no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- An SMM long-range UAV spotted new military positions near Starohnativka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission visited three border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and monitored border areas in non-government-controlled Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border-crossing point near Voznesenivka in Luhansk region and at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk in Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 6 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴

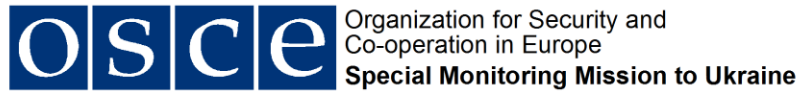


² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

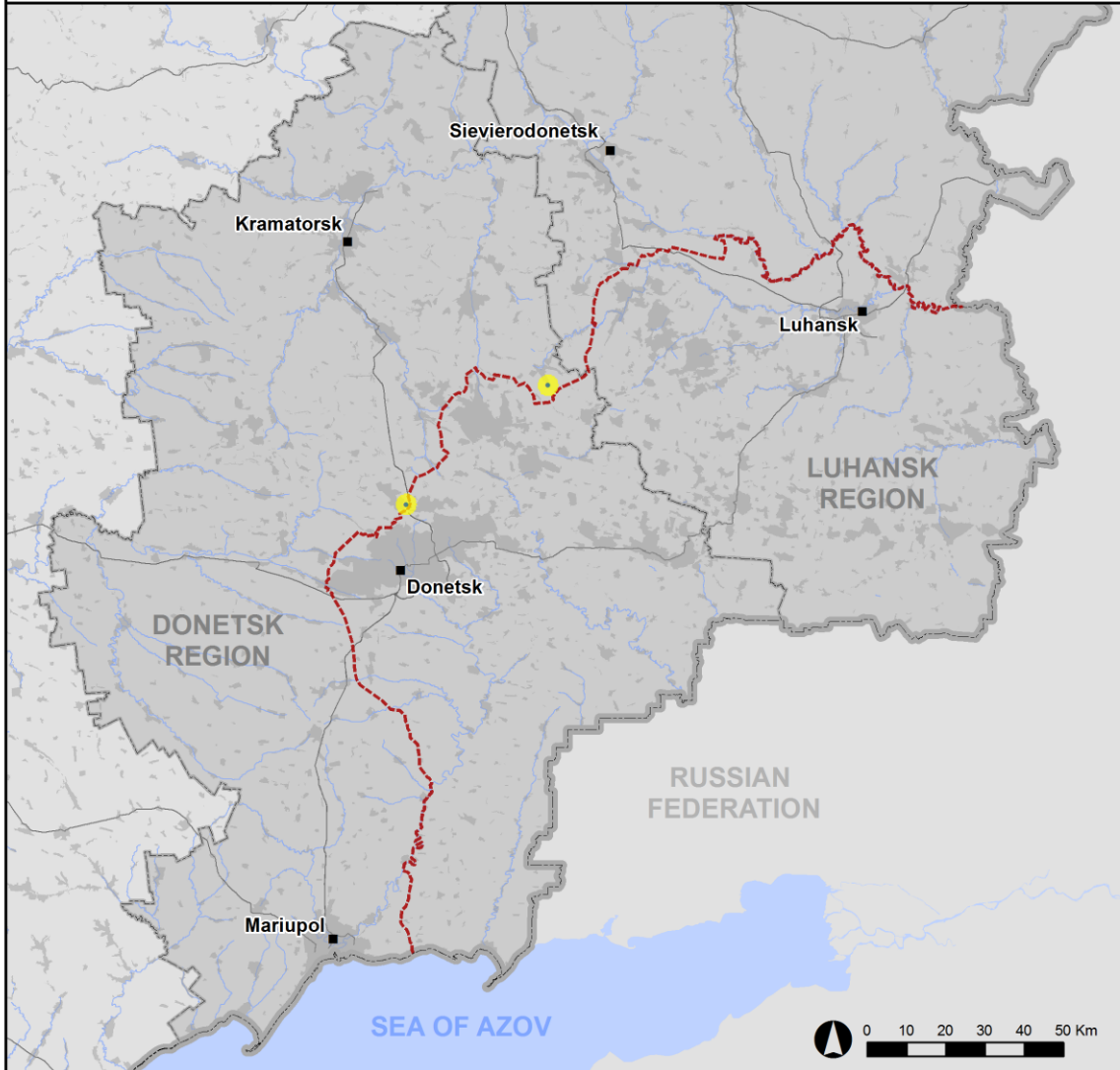
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

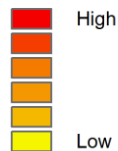
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 5-6 September 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: 07/09/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 4 and 5 September, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area south-east of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded 12 ceasefire violations.

Between the evenings of 5 and 6 September, the Mission also recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below).

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 4 and 6 September, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), it also recorded none. (For previously recorded ceasefire violations in the region between the evenings of 2 and 3 September, see [SMM Daily Report of 4 September 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 950 ceasefire violations, in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 173 explosions, two projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 762 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 5 and 6 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed 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 4 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km north-east of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner and two inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner (on the following evening, an SMM long-range UAV observed three people near the latter former position).

On 5 and 6 September, outside the disengagement area, about 500m north of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint on its northern edge, the Mission saw workers with heavy construction equipment clearing vegetation and laying gravel on both sides of road T-1316.

On both days, also outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the Mission saw workers with heavy construction equipment excavating, drilling, graveling, and flattening road T-1316 and its sides.

Throughout both days, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission also saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the night between 4 and 5 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces – two people near the area's south-western corner and one about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner (on the following evening, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near the latter former position). The UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

During the day on 5 and 6 September, while positioned near the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission 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 in the security zone⁵

On 5 September, about 6km north-east of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted five new positions with sandbags near an existing trench, assessed as belonging to Ukrainian Armed Forces (not seen in imagery from 16 August 2020).

About 2.5km north-east of Novohryhorivka (government-controlled, 55km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted a trench system (about 270m long) with three positions, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not seen in imagery from 10 April 2020).

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles, including in residential areas, on both sides of the contact line in Luhansk region and in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 5 and 6 September, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations for construction work 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 (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

On 5 September, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and to enable the examination and inventory of gas drilling assets and supplies in government-controlled Verkhnia Vilkhova (27km north-east of Luhansk), Pishchane (22km north of Luhansk) and Malynove (19km north-east of Luhansk).

On 5 and 6 September, it also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway track maintenance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of

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

Luhansk) and continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. On 6 September, while positioned near the DFS, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the station.

Border areas outside government control

On 5 September, while at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM saw two cars and two pedestrians (male and female, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it saw two cars (including one with “LPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (with “LPR” plates) and two pedestrians (male and female, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told SMM to leave the area.*

On the same day, while at the border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about an hour, the Mission saw ten cars (including four with “DPR” plates), a covered cargo truck and a bus (with “DPR” plates) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it saw 18 cars (including six with “DPR” plates) and six covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates) exiting Ukraine.

Also on the same day, while at the border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 40 minutes, the SMM saw three pedestrians (two women and one man, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

On 6 September, the SMM monitored border areas in the south-eastern and southern areas of Donetsk region, including near Verkhnoielanchyk (formerly Leninske, 55km south-east of Donetsk) and Hrekovo-Oleksandrivka (72km south-east of Donetsk) and Rozdolne (46km south-east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

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

In Luhansk region, on 5 and 6 September, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

On 5 September, while at the EECP at about 08:47 and 11:14, the Mission observed in total 256 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 200 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. On 6 September, while at the EECP at about 09:00 and 10:20, the SMM observed in total 510 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 290 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On 5 and 6 September, the Mission saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP. On 6 September, it also saw a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

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 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 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.

Denial:

- On 5 September, at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told SMM to leave the area.
- On 6 September, at a checkpoint near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, referring to a lack of permission from his superiors.

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.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
04/09/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41 km south-west of Donetsk)	
05/09/2020	6	Recently built positions near an existing trench (not seen in imagery from 16 August 2020)	Near Starohnativka (51kmsouth of Donetsk)	
	1	New trench system (270m long) with three positions (not seen in imagery from 10 April 2020)	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a residential area of Pisky (11km north-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (type undetermined)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	
06/09/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Chystyi Kliuch (26km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (one BTR-70 and one BTR-3)	In a residential area of Kriakivka (36km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
04/09/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound near Kruhlyk (65km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

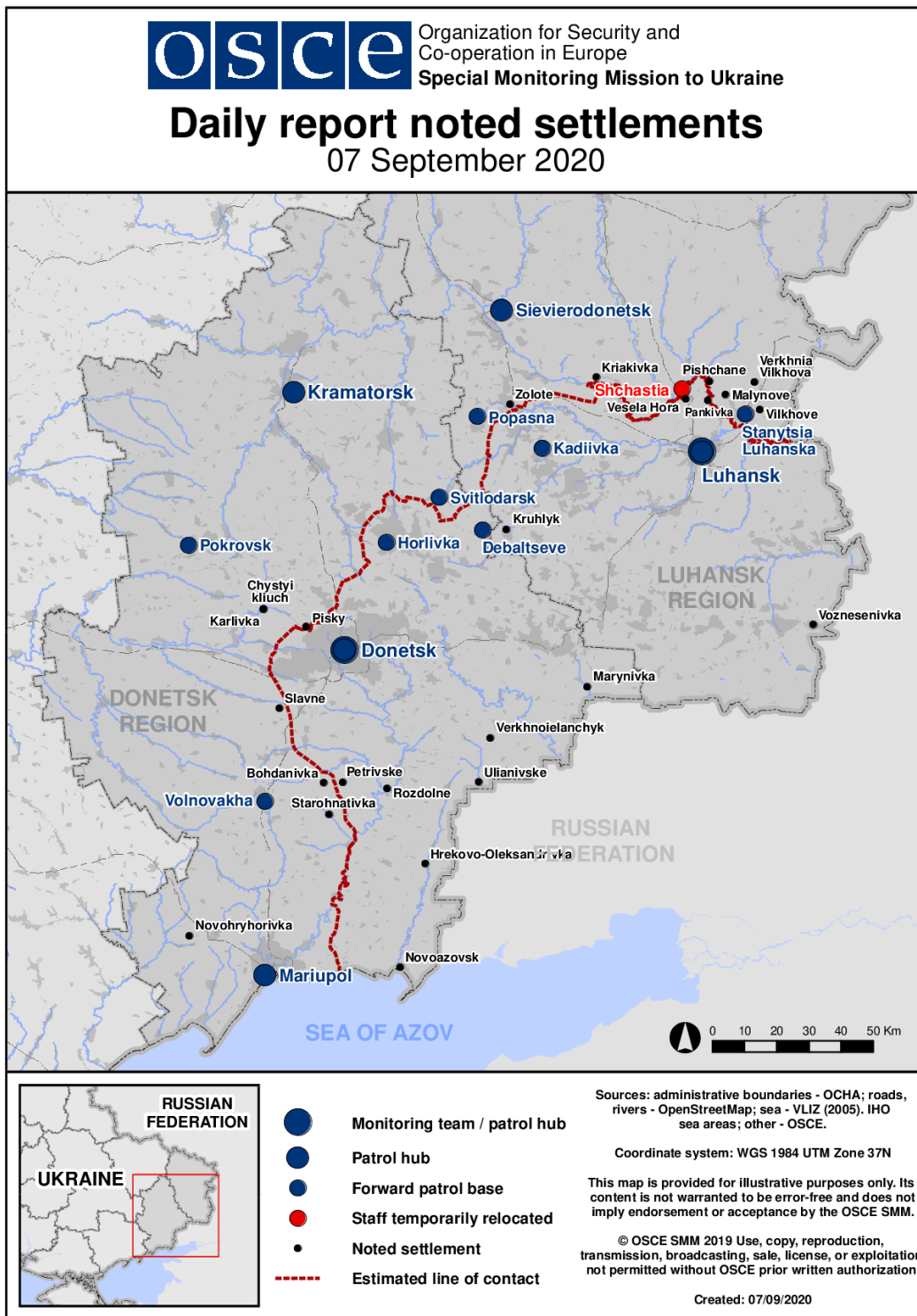
⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 6 September 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Sep, 22:45
About 1.5km E of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (inside 5km radius of DFS)	N/K	6-Sep, 14:09

⁷ 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.

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.)