

Daily Report 223/2020

18 September 2020¹

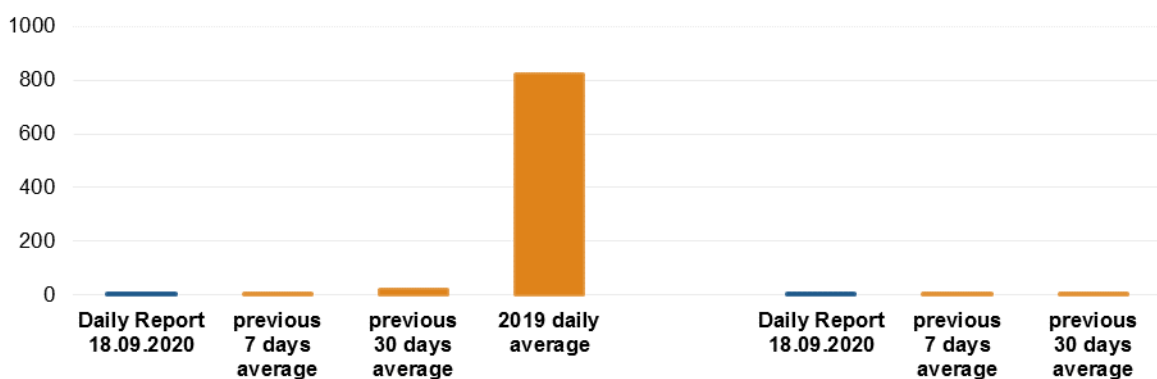
Summary

- The SMM recorded two ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 14 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people 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.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka and Kreminets, as well as near Oleksandrivske and Novoazovsk, in areas near the international border outside of government control, all in Donetsk region.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

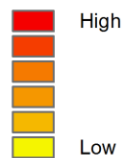


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 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: 18/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded 14 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

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 1,054 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 195 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 837 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 17 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 16 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner and another inside a former position of the armed formations about 1.4km north of the area’s south-eastern corner.

During the day on 17 September, 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), two of whom walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

During the day on 17 September, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), 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.

The SMM saw three weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see table below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of mines across the road between Starohnativka and Bila Kamianka

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

On 16 September, an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted at least ten anti-tank mines (TM-62) across the road between Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk) and Bila Kamianka (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable 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).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in government-controlled Vilkhove (22km north-east of Luhansk) and Popasna (69km west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled 16km north of Luhansk); repairs to power lines in Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and between Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Trokhizbenka (32km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

On 17 September, the SMM monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Zelenyi Hai (73km south-east of Donetsk), Bessarabka (85km south of Donetsk), Svobodne (73km south of Donetsk) and Novooleksandrivka (75km south-east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation. At checkpoints of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk) and Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk), members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, which prevented the SMM from monitoring adjacent border areas.*

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission 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.

While at the EECP at 10:30 and 12:15, the SMM saw in total 70 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 180 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 10:20, the SMM observed 20 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel toward government-controlled areas and the same number of people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. It also saw a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

The SMM visited the EECF near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and saw that it was staffed but did not observe any traffic in either direction. The EECF remains closed to traffic.

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, 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, [SMM Daily Report 15 September 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formation denied the Mission passage into the settlement, citing a lack of permission from those in control.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), four members of the armed formation denied the SMM passage to Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage, citing “ongoing exercises” in the area, which prevented the SMM from monitoring adjacent border areas.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, which prevented the SMM from monitoring adjacent border areas.

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 weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapons | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 16/09/2020 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>) | In a military compound in Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| | 1 | Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm) | Near Oleksandropil (43km north of Donetsk) | |
| 15/09/2020 | 1 | Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm) | Near Zelene Pole (40km north-west of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV |

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapons | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 16/09/2020 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>) | In a military compound near Spirne (96km north of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |

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

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 15/09/2020 | 1 | Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant) | On the northern edge of Malynove (19km north-east of Luhansk) | Mini-UAV |
| 16/09/2020 | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant) | Near Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk) | Long-range UAV |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70) | In a residential area of Druzhba (45km north-east of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle | | |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) | Near Myronivskyi (62km north-east of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) | In a military compound in Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk) | |
| 9 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant) | | | |

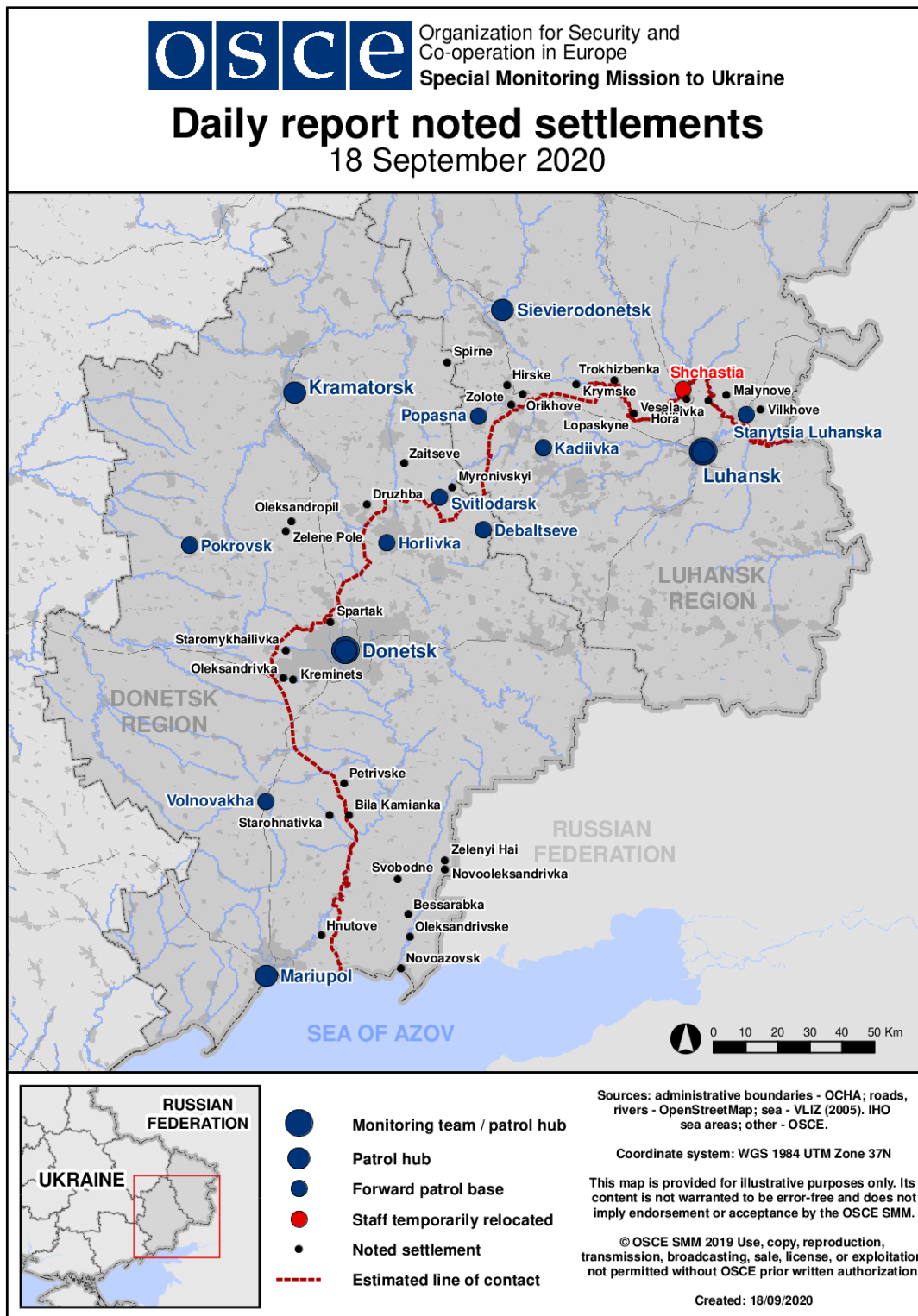
⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 17 September 2020⁷

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk) | 2-4km ENE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 17-Sep, 12:14 |
| About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk) | 2-4km NNW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 17-Sep, 14:14 |

⁷ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by 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.)