

# Daily Report 247/2020

16 October 2020<sup>1</sup>

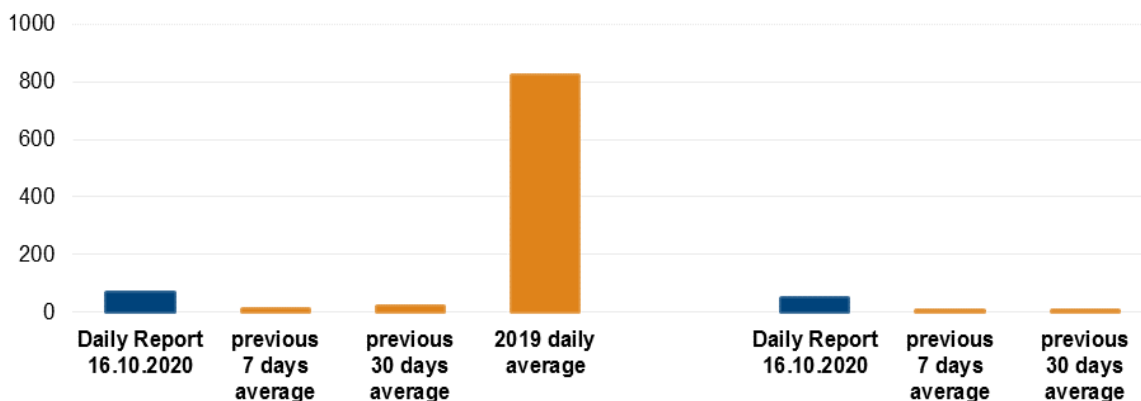
## Summary

- The SMM recorded 60 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and three in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in Donetsk region and none 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 SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that the entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region was closed.
- In Lviv and Kherson, the SMM monitored public gatherings related to Defender of Ukraine Day.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

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

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 15 October 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 camera in Petrivske was not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions

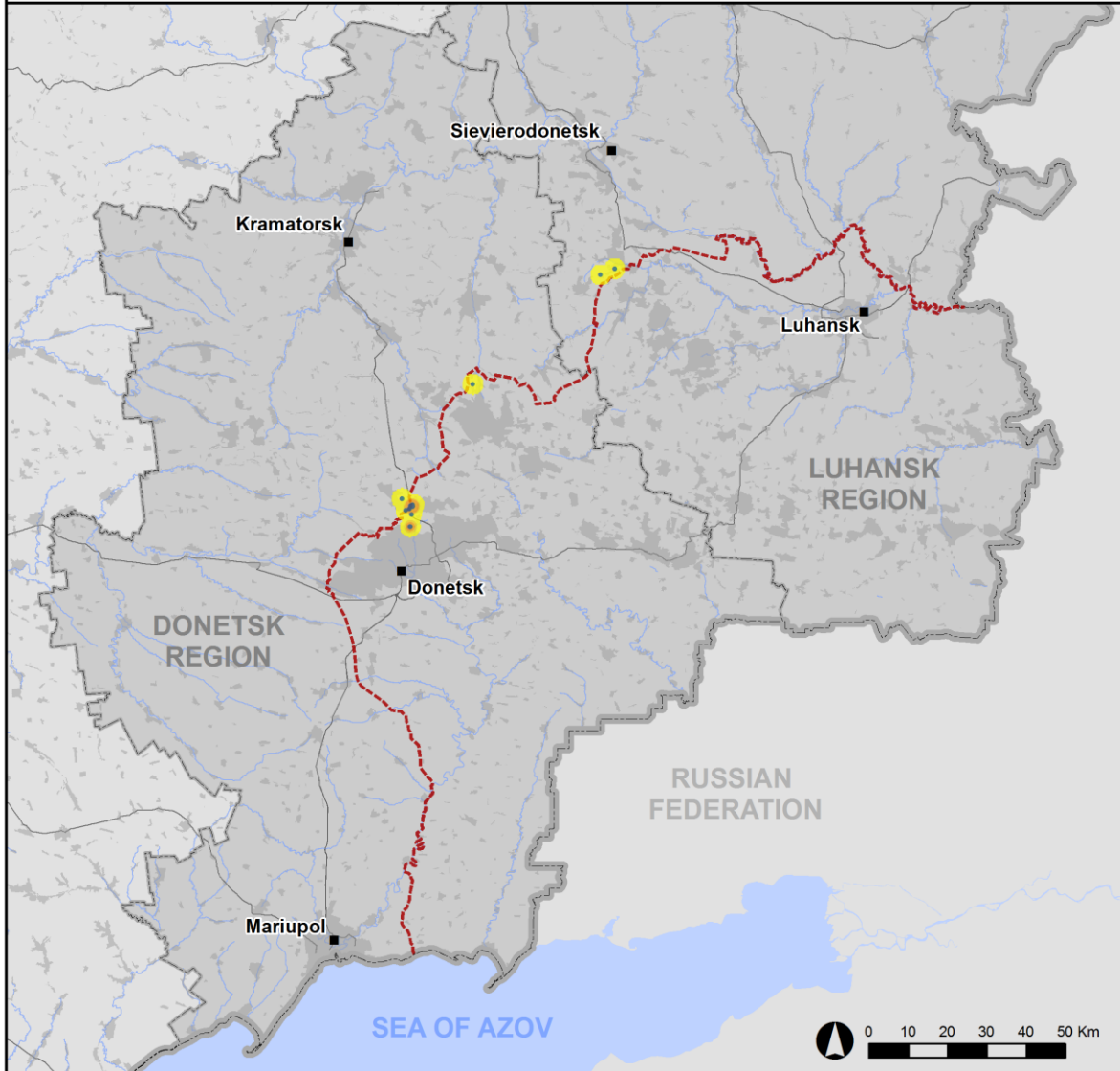
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

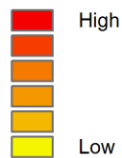


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 15 October 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: 16/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 60 ceasefire violations, including 47 explosions (some of which assessed as airbursts and impacts), most during night time and almost all at southerly and westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion – also in an area south of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations – all explosions – in areas north and west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

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 1,684 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 449 explosions, 20 projectiles in flight, 15 muzzle flashes, 21 illumination flares and 1,179 bursts and shots).

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske**

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 14 October, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces 200m and 600m south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner. The same UAV also observed two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 15 October, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, about 1km north of its southern edge and about 5m north-east of road T-1316, the SMM observed for the first time a piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO), assessed as a mortar tailfin, sticking out of the ground (not seen on 14 October 2020). About 500m north-north-west of the area’s southern edge, near road T-1316, the Mission saw five people, three of whom were carrying metal detectors.

On the same day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), one of whom, accompanied by two people in hazmat suits, walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

Also on the same day, about 50m south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, the Mission saw about 20 workers with heavy equipment laying asphalt on road T-1316 and inspecting cables, reportedly for phone services. While positioned near the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the area’s northern edge, the Mission saw two people in two roadwork vehicles entering the disengagement area.

While positioned near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission 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 a surface-to-air missile system in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, it saw five towed mortars in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>5</sup>**

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

### **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, north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

About 200m north-west of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint north of the bridge in Shchastia, at the junction with road T-1309 on the eastern side of road H-21, the SMM observed 16 workers with heavy equipment installing portable, rectangular steel frames with windows in between them, assessed as for installing offices. At a checkpoint of the armed formations about 3km south-east of the bridge, the Mission observed 28 workers with heavy equipment conducting roadwork on the eastern side of road H-21.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance of power lines near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) and Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 north, inside and south of the disengagement area near Zolote and of road H-21 near Vesela Hora; and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. During the day on 15 October, while positioned at two locations near the station, the Mission heard three ceasefire violations, including an undetermined explosion, within a 5km radius of the station.

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

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska was closed.<sup>6</sup>

While at the EECP at about 09:10 and 13:20, the Mission saw in total 80 people (28 men and 52 women in their fifties and sixties) queuing to travel towards non-government controlled areas. A Ukrainian Armed Forces representative of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) told the SMM that exceptions for crossings were being made only to those who had lost a close relative. Ten people (six women and four men in their sixties) shared with the SMM their concerns that information about the closure of EECP was not readily available.

## Gatherings related to Defender of Ukraine Day in Lviv and Kherson

The SMM continued to monitor gatherings on the occasion of Defender of Ukraine Day (see [SMM Daily Report 15 October 2020](#)).

On 14 October in Lviv, the Mission saw about 150 people (mixed genders and ages, some of whom in military-style attire) gather on Stepana Bandery Street and then proceed towards the Taras Shevchenko Monument on Svobody Avenue. The Mission heard participants chanting “Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!” in Ukrainian, as well as expressing messages critical of recent political developments concerning certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It also saw some of them holding Ukrainian and red-and-black flags, as well as carrying pictures of young men, reportedly soldiers who had died in the conflict or were missing. The SMM also observed ten law enforcement officers present.

On the same day in Kherson, the SMM saw about 30 people (mixed genders and ages), including six members of the clergy, laying flowers at the Heroes of Heavenly Hundred memorial in Shevchenkovskyi Park.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv, 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, 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 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 12 October 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:*

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<sup>6</sup> The EECP’s temporary closure, in the period from 15 October to 31 October 2020, was published on the [website](#) of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 13 October.

- 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:

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas south-east of the railway station in Rubizhne (government-controlled, 84km north-west of Luhansk).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

| Date                               | No. of weapons | Type of weapons                                  | Location                               | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Government-controlled areas</b> |                |  |  |                       |
| 15/10/2020                         | 1              | Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> ) | Near Viktorivka (74km west of Luhansk) | Patrol                |

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

| Date                               | No. of weapons | Type of weapons                          | Location  | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Government-controlled areas</b> |                |  |   |                       |
| 14/10/2020                         | 5              | Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm) | In a compound near a residential area in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV              |

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

| Date                                   | No. | Type   | Location   | Source of observation |
|--|-----|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Government-controlled areas</b>     |     |  |  |                       |
| 14/10/2020                             | 2   | Probable armoured combat vehicle                       | Near Dyliivka (52km north of Donetsk)                                      | Long-range UAV        |
|  | 14  | Probable infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined) | In a compound near Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk)                   |                       |
|  | 1   | Armoured combat vehicle                                | Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)                                   |                       |
|  | 2   | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)               | In a compound near a residential area in Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk) |                       |
| <b>Non-government-controlled areas</b> |     |  |  |                       |
| 14/10/2020                             | 2   | Armoured combat vehicle                                | Near Kalynove-Borshchuvate (61km west of Luhansk)                          | Mini-UAV              |

<sup>8</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 15 October 2020<sup>9</sup>**

| SMM position  | Event location | Means    | No. | Observation  | Description  | Weapon | Date, time    |
|---|----------------|----------|-----|--------------|--|--------|---------------|
| SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 2-3km NE       | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K    | 15-Oct, 01:57 |
|   | 2-4km ESE      | Recorded | 2   | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:57 |
|   | 3-5km E        | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K    | 15-Oct, 01:21 |
|   | 3-5km E        | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Airburst   | N/K    | 15-Oct, 01:21 |
| SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)      | 500-800m S     | Recorded | 1   | Muzzle flash | Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka  | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:31 |
|   | 500-800m S     | Recorded | 1   | Projectile   | NW to SE (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:31 |
|   | 500-800m S     | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Impact (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)     | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:31 |
|   | 0.7-1km S      | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Airburst (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)                                 | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:57 |
|   | 0.5-1km SSE    | Recorded | 1   | Projectile   | WNW to ESE   | N/K    | 14-Oct, 23:59 |
|   | 500-800m S     | Recorded | 1   | Muzzle flash | Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka  | N/K    | 15-Oct, 00:00 |
|   | 0.5-1km S      | Recorded | 1   | Projectile   | WNW to ESE (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K    | 15-Oct, 00:00 |
|   | 0.8-1km SSE    | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Airburst (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)   | N/K    | 15-Oct, 00:00 |
|   | 1-1.5km S      | Recorded | 1   | Muzzle flash |  | N/K    | 15-Oct, 00:03 |
|   | 0.5-1km SSE    | Recorded | 1   | Explosion    | Airburst (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K    | 15-Oct, 00:03 |

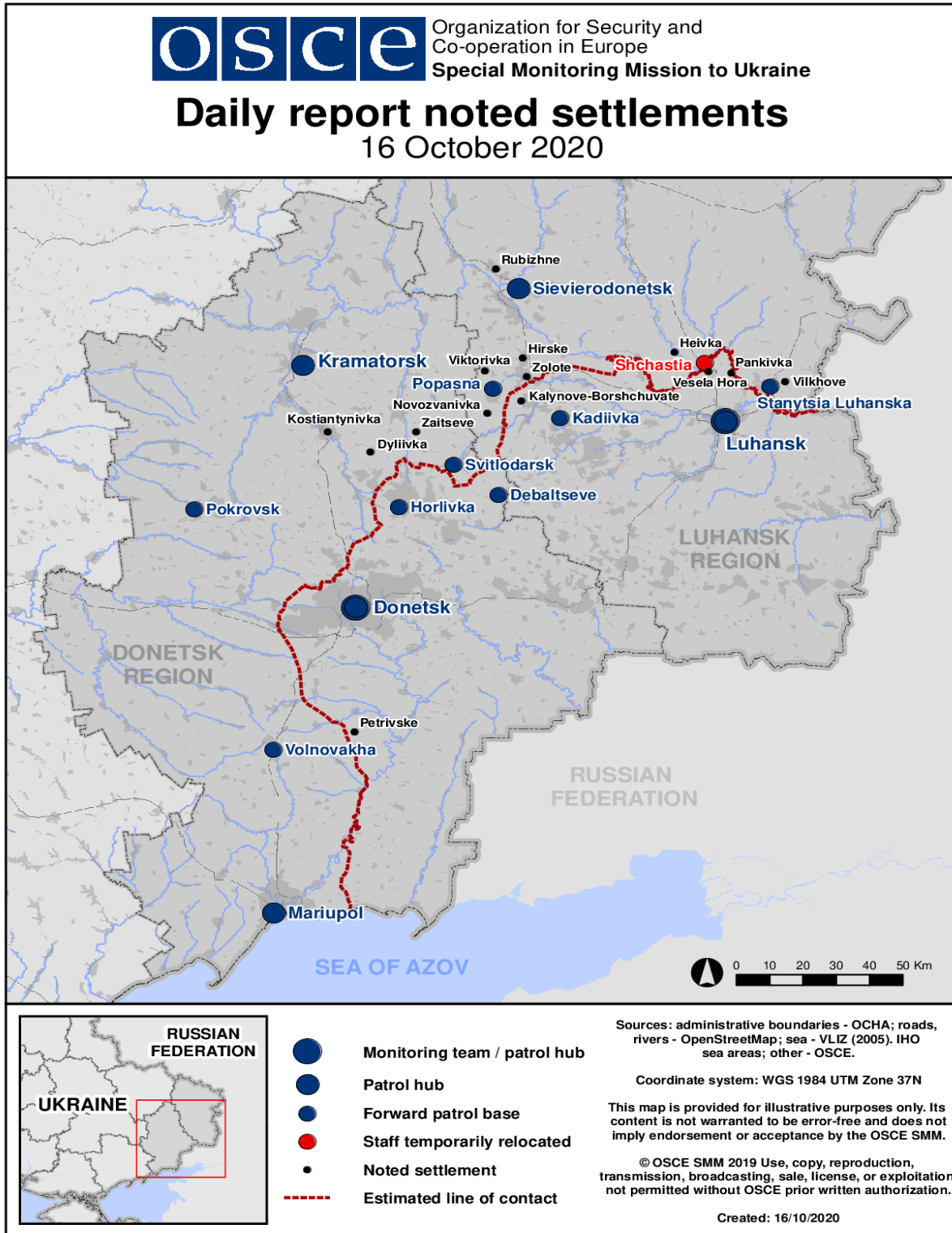
<sup>9</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based 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.



|              |          |   |              |  |     |               |
|--------------|----------|---|--------------|--|-----|---------------|
| 700-900m S   | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:06 |
| 400-900m S   | Recorded | 1 | Projectile   | WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:06 |
| 300-500m SE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:06 |
| 1-2km SSW    | Recorded | 2 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:08 |
| 1-2km SSW    | Recorded | 2 | Explosion    | Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)                           | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:09 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:17 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:17 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:18 |
| 0.5-1km S    | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:19 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Projectile   | NW to SE (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:19 |
| 500-700m SSE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Airburst (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:19 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Projectile   | SW to NE   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:24 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:24 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)                           | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:24 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:25 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:26 |
| 0.5-1km SSE  | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:27 |
| 0.5-1km S    | Recorded | 1 | Projectile   | NW to SE   | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:36 |
| 500-700m SSE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Airburst (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 15-Oct, 00:36 |
| 500-700m S   | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K | 15-Oct, 01:19 |
| 500-700m S   | Recorded | 1 | Projectile   | SSW to NNE (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K | 15-Oct, 01:19 |
| 500-700m SSE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Impact (subsequent to previous event)  | N/K | 15-Oct, 01:19 |

|  |            |          |   |              |  |               |                        |
|--|------------|----------|---|--------------|--|---------------|------------------------|
|  | 500-700m S | Recorded | 3 | Muzzle flash |  | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>01:21       |
|  | 500-700m S | Recorded | 3 | Projectile   | NNW to SSE<br>(subsequent to<br>previous event)                                      | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>01:21       |
|  | 500-700m S | Recorded | 2 | Explosion    | Airburst   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>01:21       |
|  | 500-700m S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Impact   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>01:21       |
| SMM camera at<br>entry-exit<br>checkpoint in<br>Maiorsk<br>(government-<br>controlled, 45km<br>NE of Donetsk)      | 2-4km ENE  | Recorded | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>01:13       |
| About 1km NW of<br>the railway station<br>in Yasynuvata (non-<br>government-<br>controlled, 16km<br>NE of Donetsk) | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>09:27       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>10:02       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 2 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>13:28       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>13:30       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 3 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>13:34       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 2 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>13:49       |
|  | 1-2km W    | Heard    | 1 | Shot         |  | Small<br>arms | 15-Oct,<br>14:06       |
|  | 1-2km W    | Heard    | 1 | Burst        |  | Small<br>arms | 15-Oct,<br>14:06       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 8 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>14:51       |
|  | 5-7km SSW  | Heard    | 3 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>14:58       |
| About 2km S of<br>Avdiivka<br>(government-<br>controlled, 17km N<br>of Donetsk)                                    | 5-6km ESE  | Heard    | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined   | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>14:58       |
| 3km N of<br>Pervomaïsk (non-<br>government-<br>controlled, 58km W<br>of Luhansk)                                   | 3km NW     | Heard    | 2 | Explosion    | Undetermined<br>(assessed as<br>outside the<br>disengagement<br>area near<br>Zolote) | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>12:43-12:58 |
| Molodizhne (non-<br>government-<br>controlled, 63km<br>NW of Luhansk)  | 3km NW     | Heard    | 1 | Explosion    | Undetermined<br>(assessed as<br>outside the<br>disengagement<br>area near<br>Zolote) | N/K           | 15-Oct,<br>13:30-13:40 |

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).