



Daily Report 18/2021

25 January 2021¹

Summary

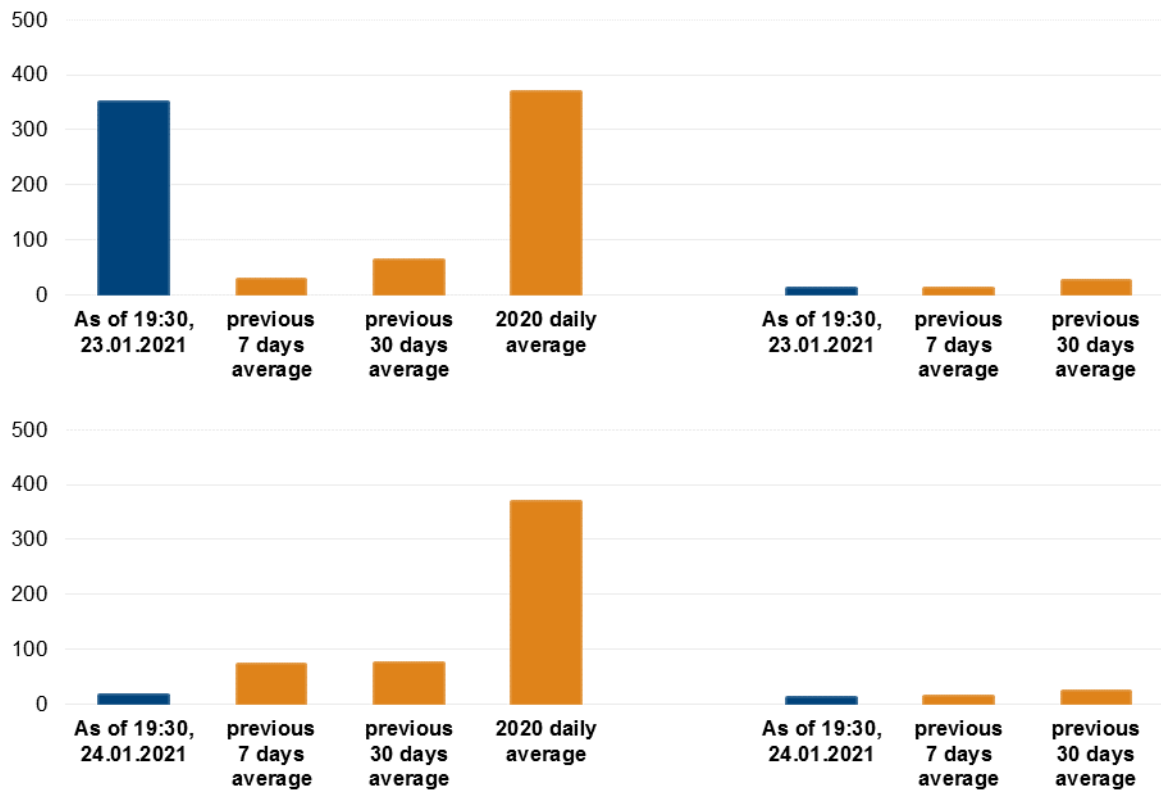
- Between the evenings of 22 and 24 January, the SMM recorded 364 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. The majority of these ceasefire violations were bursts and shots of small-arms, heavy-machine-gun and 30mm cannon fire recorded on the morning of 23 January close to the disengagement area near Petrivske. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 45 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 22 and 24 January, the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Spartak, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and saw people in the latter area during daytime.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. On 24 January, it recorded a ceasefire violation near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station to Yasynuvata.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission observed a peaceful gathering in Lviv to mark the Day of the Unity of Ukraine.
- The Mission monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point outside government control near Izvaryne, Luhansk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴

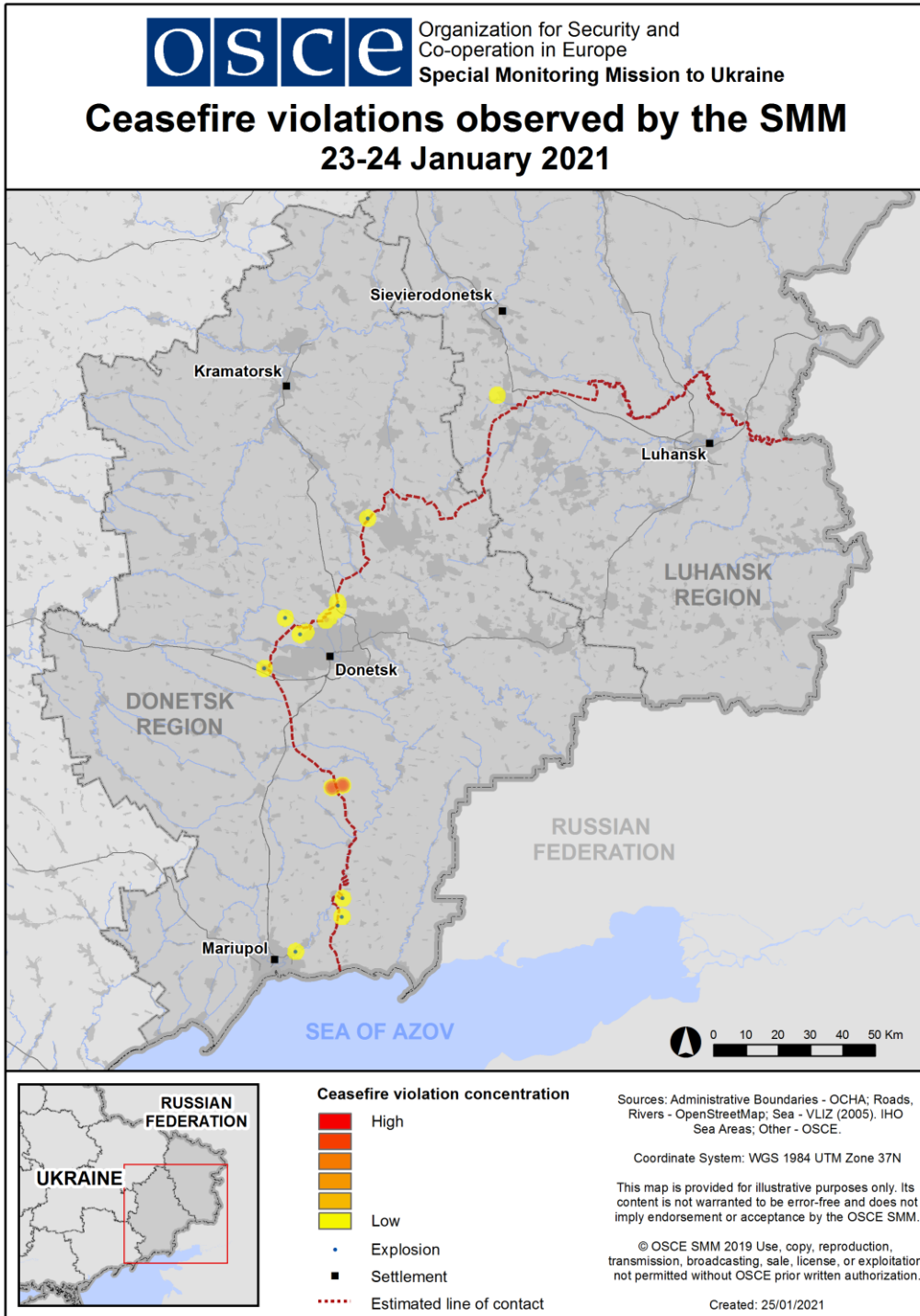


² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and Zolote were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 22 and 24 January, the Mission recorded 364 ceasefire violations, including 23 undetermined explosions. Three hundred and twenty-six ceasefire violations (all bursts and shots of small-arms, heavy machine-gun and 30mm cannon fire) occurred in areas east and south of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) on the morning of 23 January (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 45 ceasefire violations in the region.⁵

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 22 and 24 January, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations – both shots of small-arms fire in an area north-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.⁶

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 6,771 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,750 explosions, 913 projectiles in flight, 94 muzzle flashes, 55 illumination flares and at least 2,959 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Spartak, Donetsk region

On 23 January, while positioned in Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned-aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard seven shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1km west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.1km west of the SMM's position. During the flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁷

On 23 and 24 January, the SMM observed members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 23 January, while positioned on the western edge of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 500-600m south-west, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 23 January, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw four containers inside the area, along the northern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km

⁵ The previous reporting period covered the time between the evenings of 21 and 22 January 2021.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

west of Luhansk)⁸. The SMM also saw a vehicle with two people assessed as workers of a telecommunications company enter the disengagement area, check phone cables near the containers and leave the area.

On 23 and 24 January, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission spotted members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), all of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the morning of 23 January, while positioned at two locations near **the disengagement area near Petrivske**, the SMM heard 296 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire and 30 shots of 30mm cannon fire, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 23 January, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission saw a stationary car and at least four people near a former position of the armed formations inside the disengagement area, about 200m north-west of its south-eastern corner. It later observed the car (with the four people inside it) exiting the area in a northerly direction and continuing towards Petrivske.

On 24 January, while positioned at four locations near the area, 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.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

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

Presence of mines near Zolote-4/Rodina, Luhansk region

On 22 January, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted seven anti-tank mines laid across a local road about 1.5km east-north-east of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 18 January 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 23 and 24 January, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). On 24 January, it recorded one shot of small-

⁸ The SMM Daily Report of 23 January 2021 on page five should have read, “Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw seven workers with heavy construction equipment unloading metal containers near it.”

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

arms fire close to the DFS, near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

Also on both days, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, on 23 January, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. The SMM also observed that the corresponding checkpoint near Kremiets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

In Luhansk region, on 23 and 24 January, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions. On both days, it also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission also noted that on both days, the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were not operational.

Border areas outside government control

On 23 January, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 45 minutes, the Mission observed three cars (including two with “DPR” plates), a bus with “DPR” plates (with about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages), 12 covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates) and 30 people (nine women and 18 men, mixed ages, and three children) entering Ukraine. It also observed 14 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates), 24 covered cargo trucks (including seven with “DPR” plates) and 29 people (11 women and 15 men, mixed ages, and three children) exiting Ukraine.

On 24 January, while at the same border crossing point for about 45 minutes, the Mission observed 13 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks and 24 people (ten women and 13 men, mixed ages, and one infant) entering Ukraine. It also observed nine cars (including six with “DPR” plates), seven covered cargo trucks with “DPR” plates, a bus with “DPR” plates (with about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 28 people (nine women and 19 men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

On 24 January, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 90 minutes, the SMM observed 12 cars (including five with “DPR” plates), a bus with “DPR” plates (with about 25 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and five people (two women and two men in their forties and one teenage girl) entering Ukraine. It also observed 14 cars (including six with “DPR” plates), eight cargo trucks with “DPR” plates and four buses (including two with “DPR” plates) (with about 35 passengers, mixed genders and ages), and ten people (one woman in her twenties and nine men in their twenties and thirties) exiting Ukraine.

On 23 January, while at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the Mission observed three covered trucks (including two with “LPR” plates) and about 55 people (mostly women in their thirties to sixties) entering Ukraine, as well as 27 cars (including 17 with “LPR” plates) and three covered trucks exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

Also on 23 January, while at a border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 50 minutes, the Mission saw six people (four women and two men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine, as well as one man (in his thirties) exiting Ukraine.

The same day, while at a pedestrian border crossing point near Sievernyi (50km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM observed two cars with “LPR” plates and a woman (in her thirties) entering Ukraine, as well as a man (in his thirties) exiting Ukraine.

SMM monitored gathering in Lviv

On 22 January, the Mission monitored a peaceful gathering at the Lychakiv cemetery in Lviv to mark the Day of the Unity of Ukraine. The SMM saw about 100 people (mixed genders and ages), including members of the clergy, representatives of local authorities, civil society activists and 50 representatives of the Ukrainian Armed Forces placing flowers, wreaths and candles on several graves, as well as about ten law enforcement officers standing nearby.

Security situation in south-east Kherson

On 22, 23 and 24 January, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson); at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson); and in Strilkove (193km south-east of Kherson) and Henichesk (176 km south-east of Kherson).

The SMM continued monitoring in 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, 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 Minsk agreements 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); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission’s observations.

Denial:

- On 23 January, at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.

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.

Conditional access:

- On 24 January, at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations allowed the Mission to proceed through the checkpoint only after about 35 minutes and with the escort of a member of the armed formations in a civilian vehicle.

Other impediments:¹⁰

- On 23 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Klynove (68km north-east of Donetsk) and Stepanivka (54km north of Donetsk).
- On the same day, while conducting a mini-UAV flight over an area near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard seven shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the UAV (see above). During the same flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.
- Also on the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over an area near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

¹⁰ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹¹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/1/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Vesele (21 km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Shchastia (20 km north of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		

¹¹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

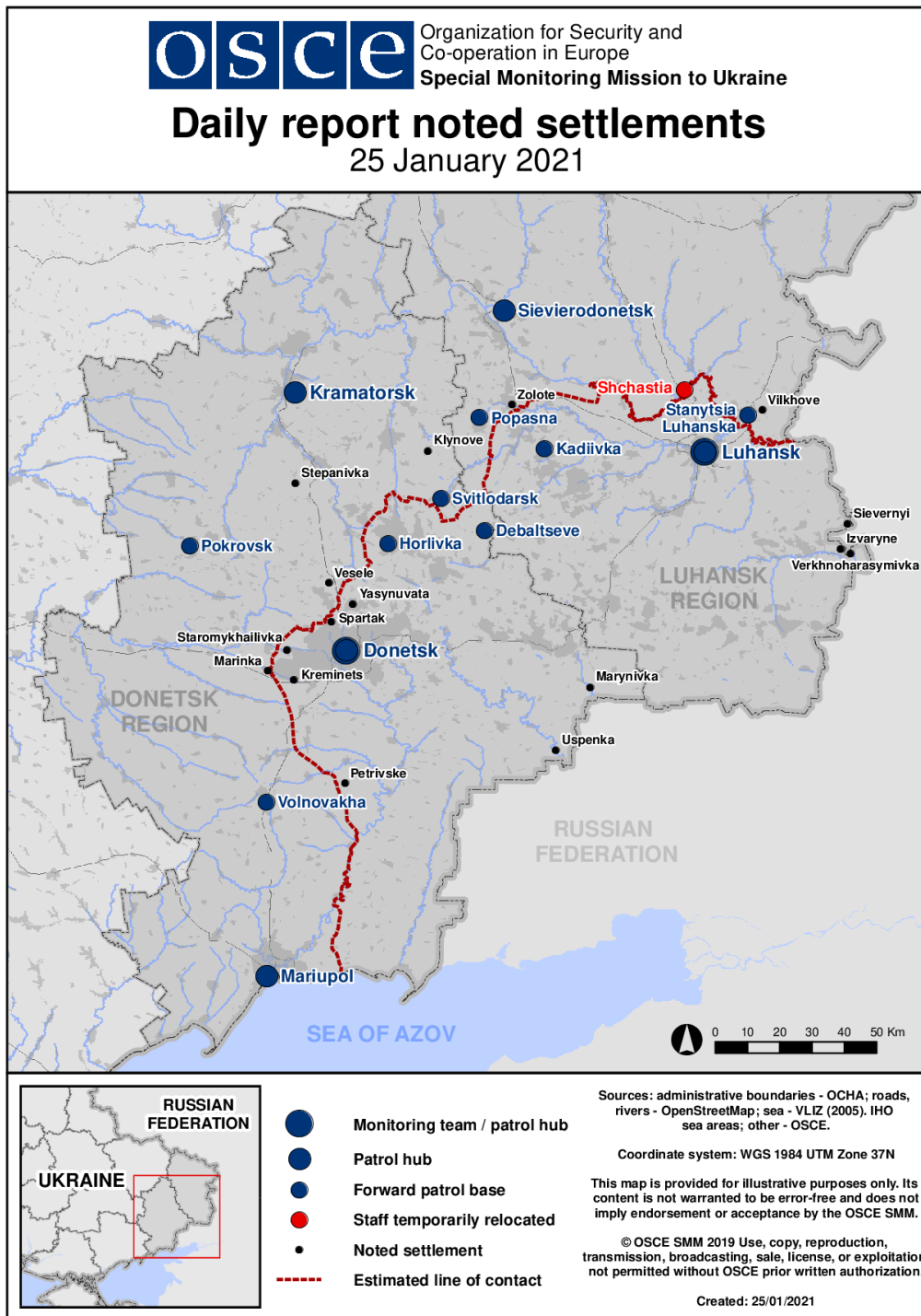
Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 January 2021¹²

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	22-Jan, 22:32
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	22-Jan, 20:49
	4-6km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion		N/K	23-Jan, 05:52
Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km N of Donetsk)	1km W	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 12:47
	1km N	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 13:02
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:22
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:37
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	28	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:44-10:46
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:44-10:46
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	37	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:51-10:52
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	16	Burst		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:51-10:52
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:58-11:01
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	31	Burst		Small arms	23-Jan, 10:58-11:01
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	39	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 11:05-11:34
	2.5-3.5km S	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	23-Jan, 11:05-11:34
About 300m W of Netailove (government-controlled, 22km NW of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jan, 11:30
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled,	3-5km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jan, 11:20

¹² 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.

42km NE of Donetsk)							
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	15	Shot		Cannon (30mm)	23-Jan, 09:52-10:00
	2-3km SSE	Heard	15	Shot		Cannon (30mm)	23-Jan, 10:22-10:24
	2-3km SSE	Heard	44	Shot		HMG	23-Jan, 10:30-10:37
	2-3km SSE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	23-Jan, 10:30-10:37
	2-3km SSE	Heard	70	Burst		HMG	23-Jan, 11:32-11:42
About 6km SSW of Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	N/K NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jan, 14:45-15:00
W edge of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	500-600m SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	23-Jan, 12:31
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	400-600m SSW	Recorded	4	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Jan, 01:02
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jan, 21:54
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km NNW	Recorded	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jan, 22:09
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	1.5-2.5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jan, 18:45
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	24-Jan, 09:22

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹³



¹³ 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).