

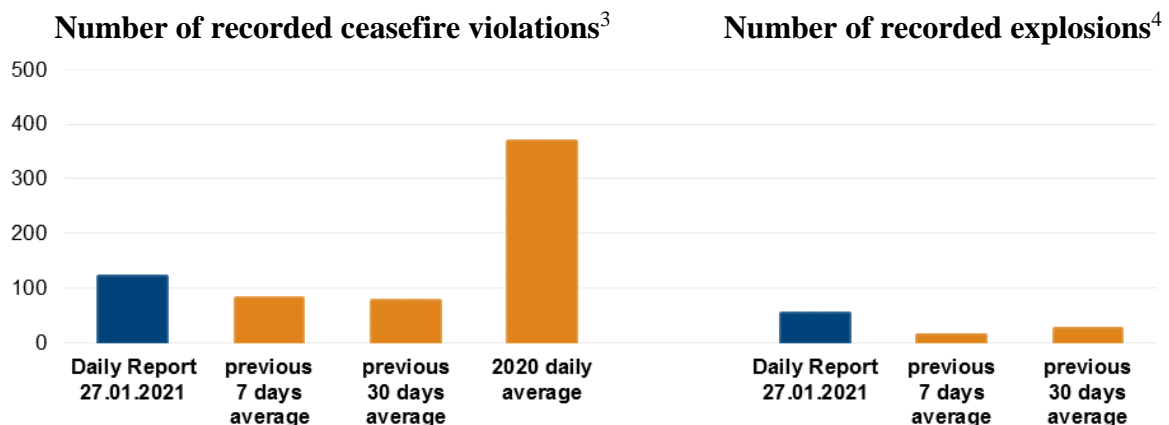
Daily Report 20/2021

27 January 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 76 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 62 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 46 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 56 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and spotted people inside the latter two areas during daytime.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard three ceasefire violations close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), during the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the station.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission monitored peaceful gatherings in Kyiv and Lviv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne, southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 26 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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

³ Including explosions.

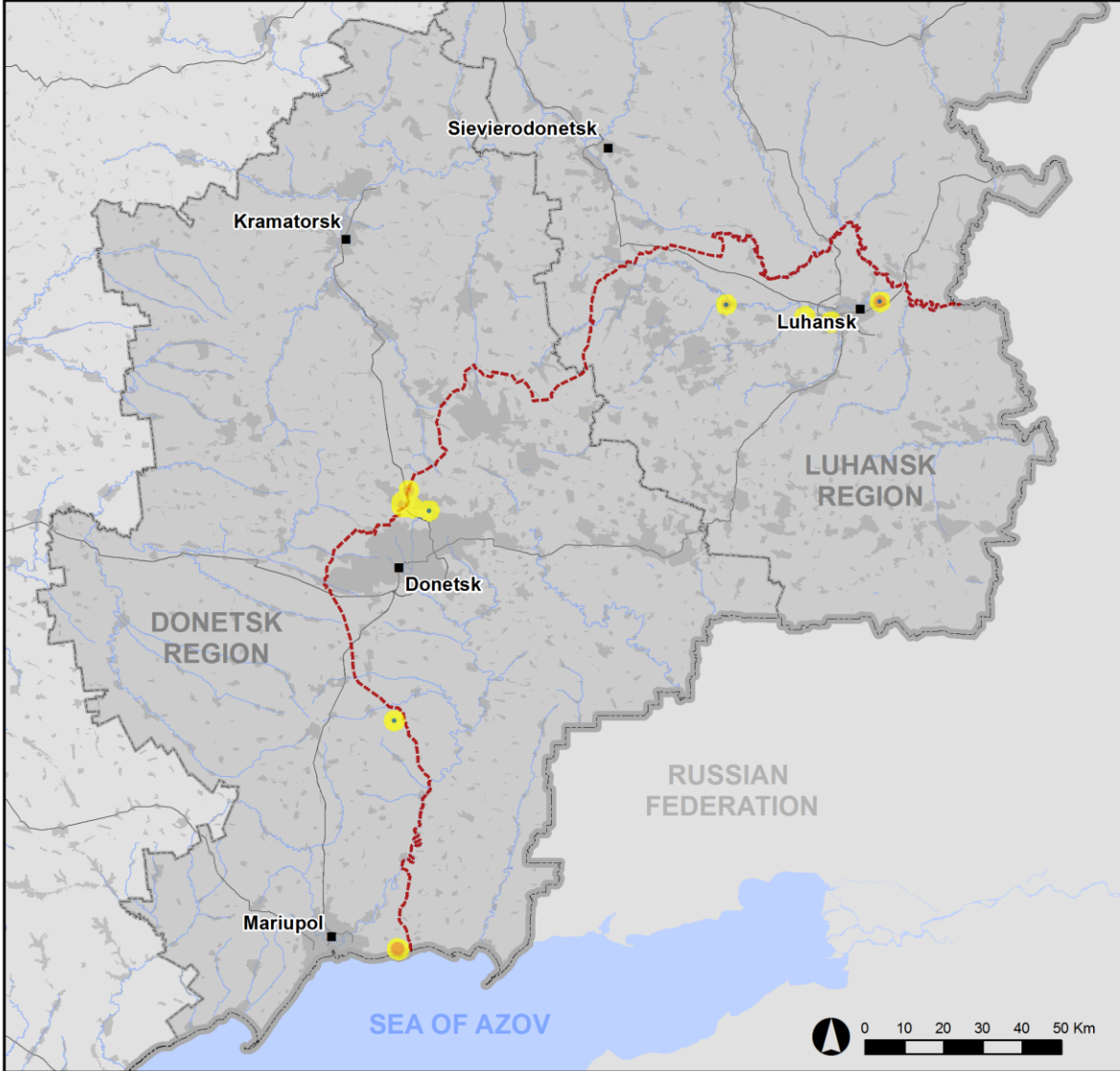
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

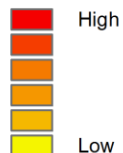


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 26 January 2021



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: 27/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 76 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk) and at northerly and southerly directions of the DFS (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 62 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions which occurred at southerly directions of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 56 ceasefire violations in the region.

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 7,011 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,821 explosions, 921 projectiles in flight, 94 muzzle flashes, 57 illumination flares and at least 3,118 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 26 January, the SMM saw three 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).

During the day on 25 January, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one about 190m south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner and two about 1.5km south-east of its north-western corner.

On 26 January, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission [again](#) observed four containers, inside the area, along the northern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk) and a pile of tiles nearby.

On the same day, while positioned near the same checkpoint, the SMM saw four workers fixing a metal fence on the eastern side of road T-1316 and observed that two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge.

During the day on 25 January, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner, and four people near a former position of the armed formations about 350m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

On 26 January, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM heard five undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 5-6km west-south-west, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, SMM observed a self-propelled howitzer in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

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

Presence of mines near Popasna, Luhansk region

On 24 January, in a field on the eastern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 50 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 12 January 2021](#)).

SMM facilitation of repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission monitored the security situation close to the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the DFS, the SMM heard 27 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station. Three of these ceasefire violations were recorded during the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards the station.

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable inspection and repairs to gas supply lines near Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk); railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); and demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia

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

Luhanska bridge were operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions. It also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission also noted that 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.

While at the latter checkpoint, the SMM observed three workers adjusting overhead electrical cables.

SMM monitored gatherings in Kyiv and Lviv

On 25 January, the SMM monitored peaceful gatherings in Kyiv and Lviv to commemorate people who had reportedly been killed in the context of the Maidan events in early 2014.

In Kyiv, the Mission saw about 100 people (mixed genders and ages) marching from Maidan Nezalezhnosti to European Square and Hrushevskoho Street, and stopping in front of a memorial, where they laid flowers, lit candles and participated in a prayer service. The Mission also observed ten law enforcement officers present.

In Lviv, the SMM saw about 120 people (mixed genders, mostly in their thirties), some of whom were holding photos, Ukrainian and Belarusian flags, and various banners, marching from Svobody Avenue to a memorial on Pidvalna Street, where they laid flowers, lit candles and participated in a prayer service. The Mission also observed 24 law enforcement officers present.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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 [SMM Daily Report 26 January 2021](#)). 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 near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the

Mission further passage, citing a lack of permission from superiors. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed vehicles passing through in both directions.

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.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 25 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near government-controlled Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, 67km north of Donetsk) and Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk). The same UAV also experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near non-government-controlled Shevchenko (21km east of Donetsk) and Khartsyzk (26km east of Donetsk).

⁷ 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 UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/1/2021	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In Serhiivka (38km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Dyliivka (52km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1		Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	7	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		

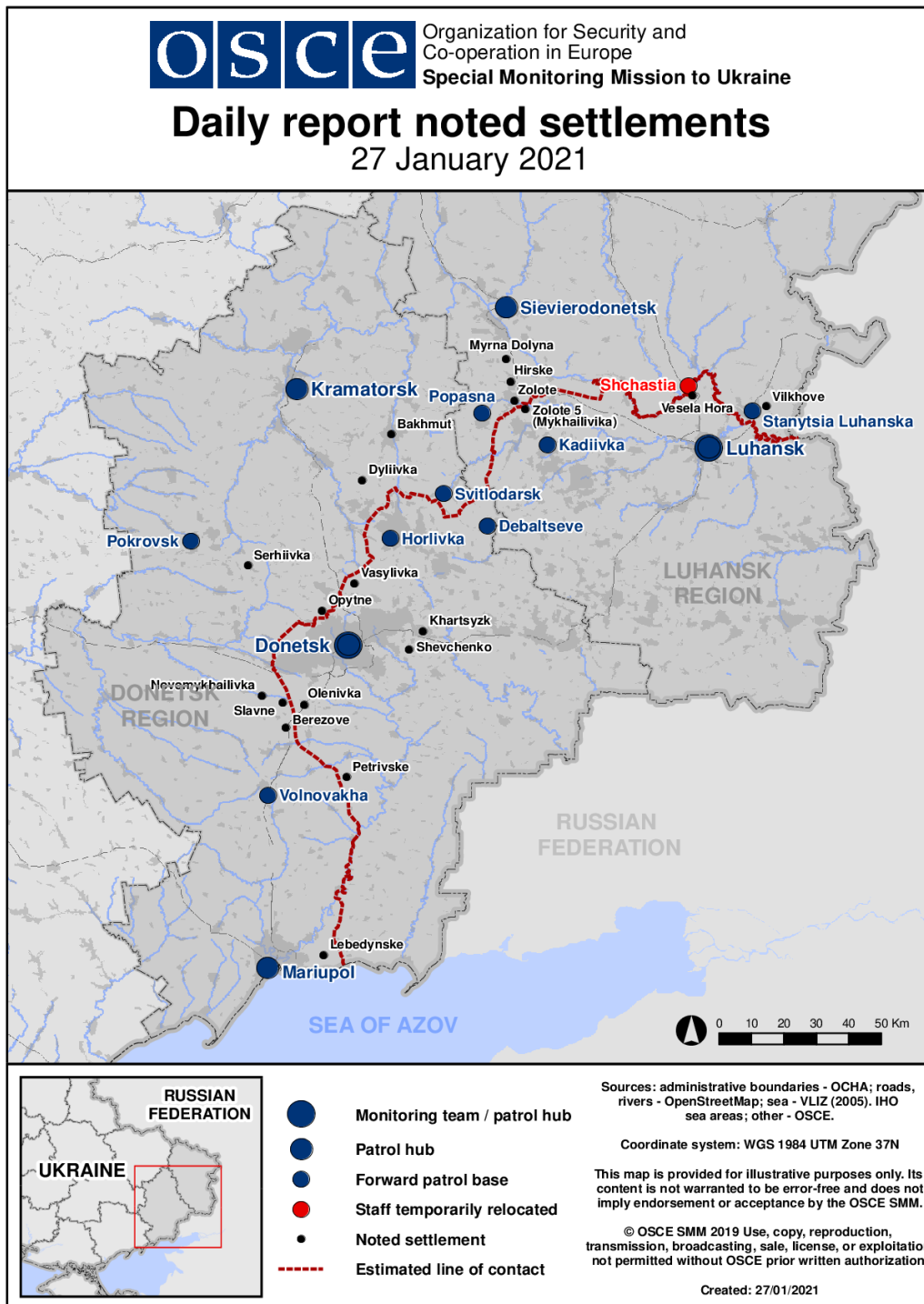
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 26 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS)	N/K	25-Jan, 18:45
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	25-Jan, 21:07
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	25-Jan, 21:08
About 1.5km WNW of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 08:33-08:43
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2km WSW	Heard	3	Shot		HMG	26-Jan, 11:16
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	5-6km WSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	26-Jan, 11:32
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-1.5km SE	Heard	6	Shot		HMG	26-Jan, 11:16
	1km E	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	26-Jan, 13:33
	1km E	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	26-Jan, 13:37
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	0.7-1km ESE	Heard	15	Burst		Small arms	26-Jan, 09:58-10:01
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2km ESE	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	26-Jan, 08:55-08:57
	1-2km ESE	Heard	11	Shot		Small arms	26-Jan, 08:59-09:03
	1-2km ESE	Heard	16	Shot		Small arms	26-Jan, 09:04-09:19
SE edge of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	15-20km SE	Heard	29	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 12:25-13:11
	15-20km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 12:42-12:46
	15-20km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 13:13
About 2.5km SE of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	20-40km WSW	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 13:10-13:30
	20-40km WSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Jan, 13:51-14:03

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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).