

Daily Report 58/2021

12 March 2021¹

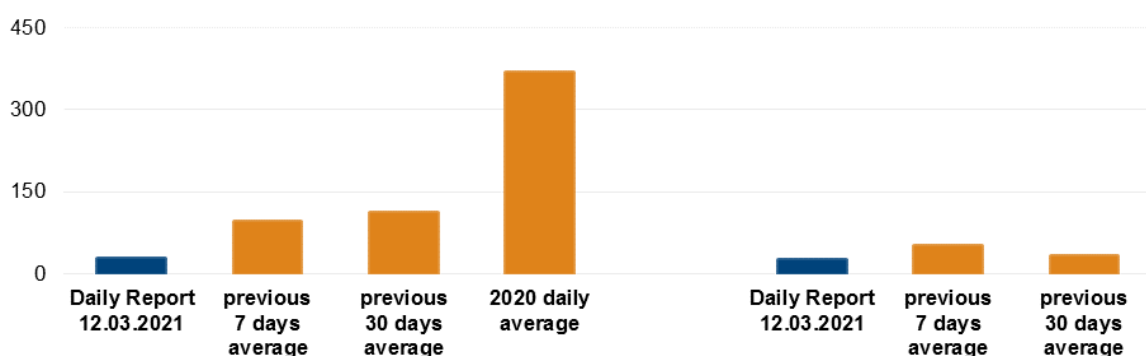
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 45 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 14 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 70 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure, and a transfer of funds from non-government to government-controlled areas.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets, in Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



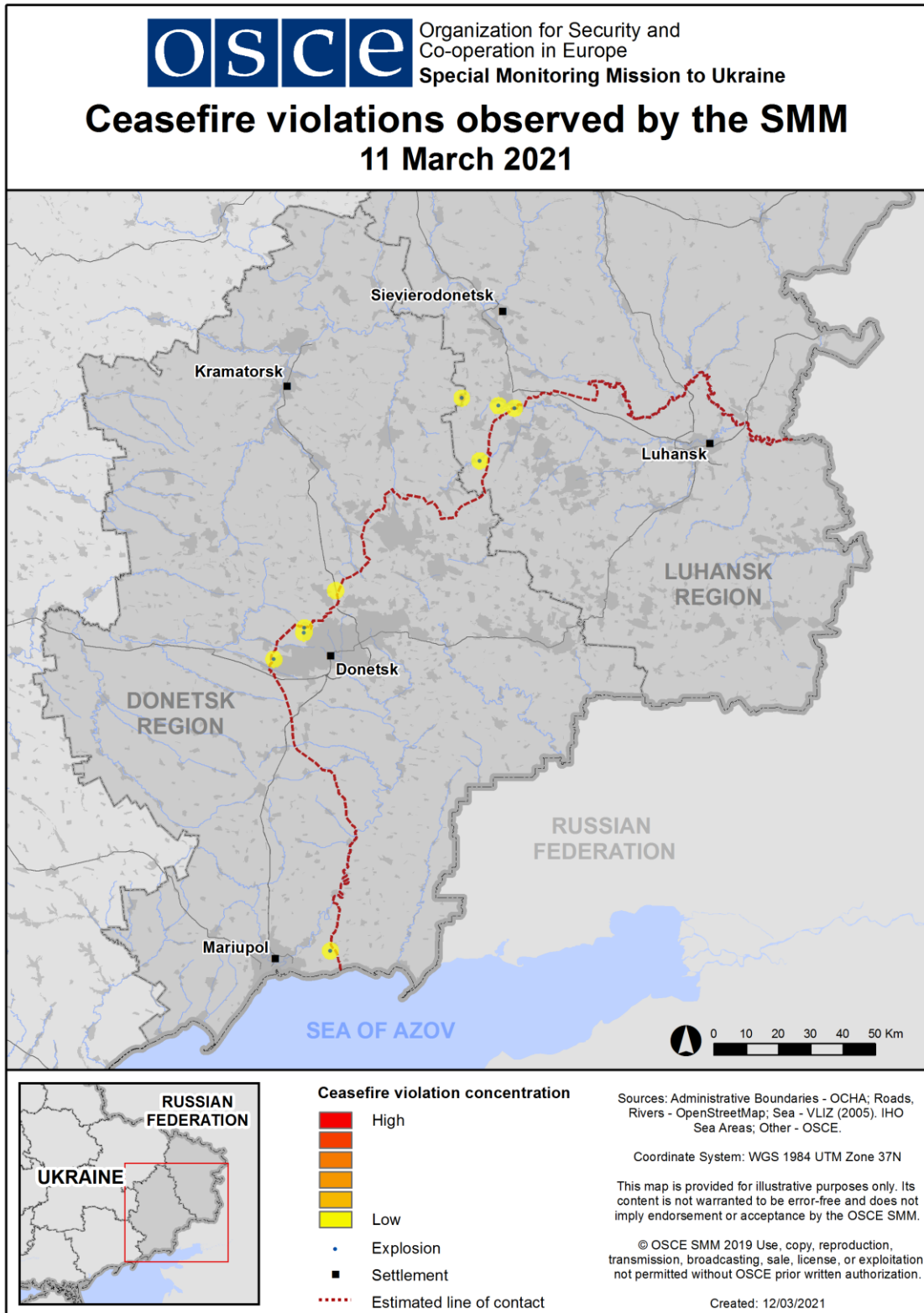
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 11 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations, including 12 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in an area north-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk) and at westerly directions of the Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 45 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 14 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), which were assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 70 ceasefire violations.

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 11,874 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including at least 4,204 explosions, 1,459 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,032 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area’s southern edge.

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the evening of 10 March, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, which it was unable to assess as inside or outside the disengagement area. On the same evening, while in Popasna, the SMM heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 6-8km east-north-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 11 March, also while in Popasna, the mission heard two explosions, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO) outside the disengagement area.

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

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM observed 22 multiple launch rocket systems, four howitzers and one anti-tank gun in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 15 howitzers in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region and six tanks in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, five of which at a training area. (For further information, see the tables below).

Weapons storage sites

At a heavy weapons permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region

11 March

The SMM noted that one multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) was again missing.

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

The SMM saw one armoured combat vehicle in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below).

Presence of anti-tank mines near Vodiane and Pikuzy, Donetsk region

On 10 March, in a field near the eastern edge of Novhorodske (government-controlled, 35km north of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time about 130 anti-tank mines (assessed as not recently laid). The same UAV again spotted about 300 anti-tank mines, assessed as part of larger minefields, in fields near the eastern and northern edge of Novhorodske. All of these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 20 May 2020](#)).

In a field near the south-eastern edge of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), the same UAV again spotted about 60 anti-tank mines, assessed as part of a larger minefield belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 11 August 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned about 2km south-south-east of Kamianka (government-

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

controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – a shot of small-arms fire – at an assessed range of 200-300m north-west, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka; as well as maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk), maintenance to water pipelines in non-government controlled areas of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk) and emergency repairs to a power substation in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-east of Donetsk) .

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire in order to enable a transfer of funds from non-government- to government-controlled areas across the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), reportedly related to water payments.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia were open but did not observe any people passing through, and 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 closed.

The Mission continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Kherson, 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 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 of 2 March 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.

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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations (man in his forties) allowed the SMM to proceed towards Donetsk city only after about 50 minutes.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
11/3/2021	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	At the airfield near Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)		
	2	Towed howitzer (one 2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm, and one D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Anti-tank gun (BS-3, 100mm)		
	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 54km south-west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/3/2021	15	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
11/3/2021	5	Tank (four T-72 and one T-64)	At a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Tank (T-72)	At the airfield near Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (probable BMP-variant)	Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV

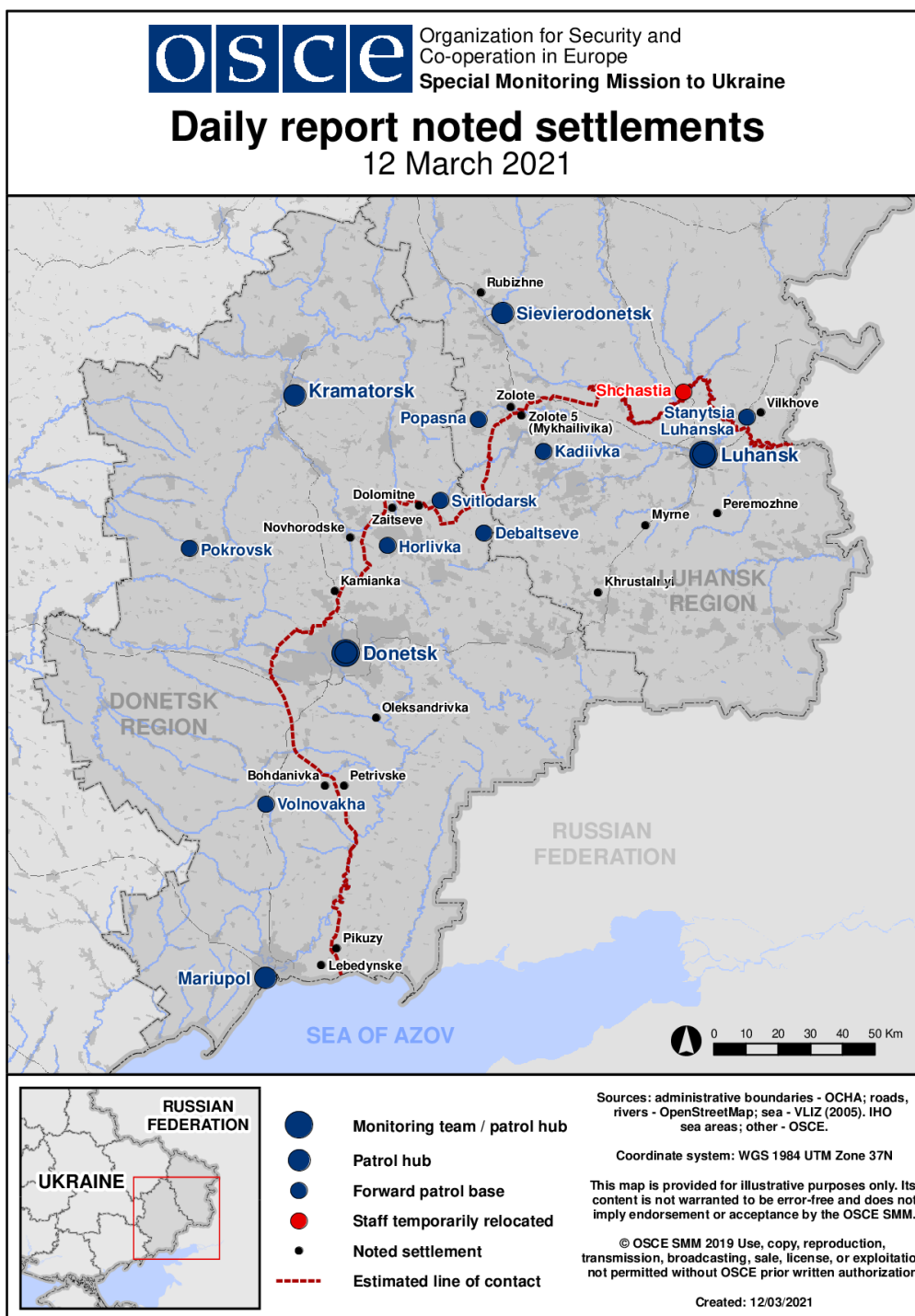
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 11 March 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 21:07
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 21:51
	3-4km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Mar, 23:16
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 21:27
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	200-300m NW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	11-Mar, 10:25
About 800m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Mar, 12:15-12:18
	3-4km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Mar, 12:33-12:36
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Mar, 21:55
	10-11km NNW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as live-fire exercise outside the security zone)	N/K	11-Mar, 10:30-10:45
SW edge of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	5-10km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Mar, 10:22-10:26

⁸ 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 regions⁹



⁹ 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).