

Daily Report 65/2021

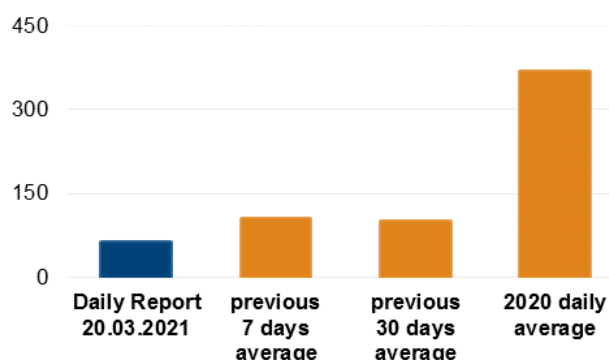
20 March 2021¹

Summary

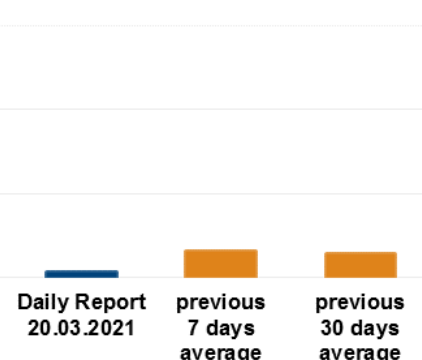
- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 29 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 113 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 34 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Vesela Hora, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and four 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 on the north-western edge of Donetsk city.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 19 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 cameras in Petrivske and in the southern part of the Zolote disengagement area were not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of most of the other SMM cameras.

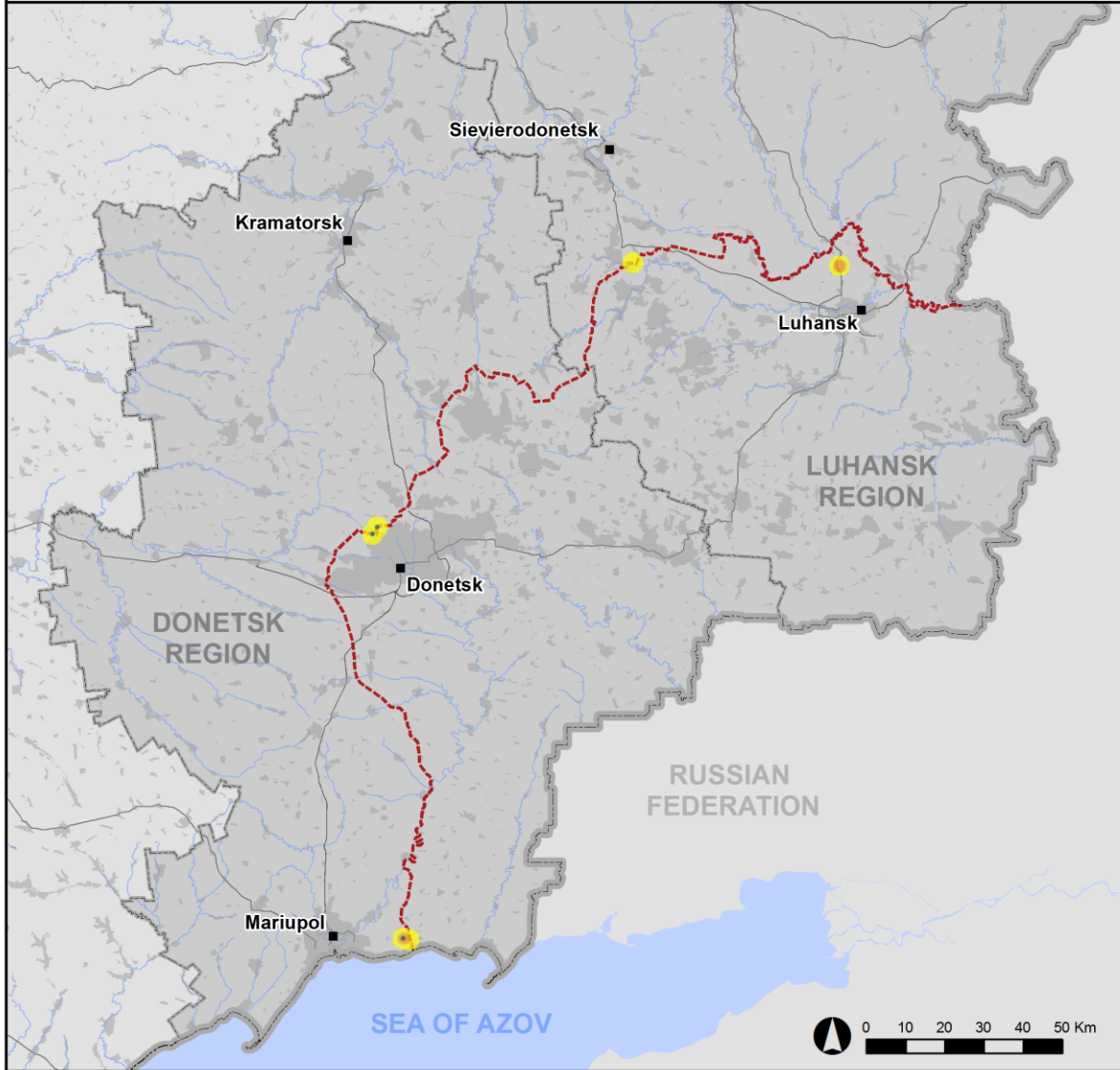
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

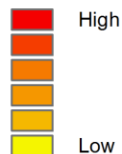
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 March 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: 20/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 29 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 113 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 34 ceasefire violations, most of which occurred at south-easterly directions of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no 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 at least 12,673 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,531 explosions, 1,520 projectiles in flight, 154 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,405 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Vesela Hora, Luhansk region

On 19 March, while positioned about 2.5km south-east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard 30 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.8km south-south-east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.8km south-south-east of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed a calm situation.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission 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, it again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another one 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 disengagement area, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), three of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by an ambulance with four people in it, two of whom in medical protective gear.

On the evening of 18 March, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded four projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 4-6km east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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 at two locations 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.

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Luhansk region, and near residential houses in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) 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 SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

***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 of 16 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 on Marshala Zhukova Avenue in Zhovtnevyi area of non-government-controlled Donetsk city's Kuibyshevskiyi district (north-western edge of Donetsk city), two armed members of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed in a south-westerly direction only after about 35 minutes of waiting.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 19 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference on four occasions during four separate flights, all assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk).
- Also on the same day, while positioned near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 30 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area (see above).

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 UAVs' position.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
19/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Talakivka (90km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/3/2021	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-1)	Near Zhovte (17km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

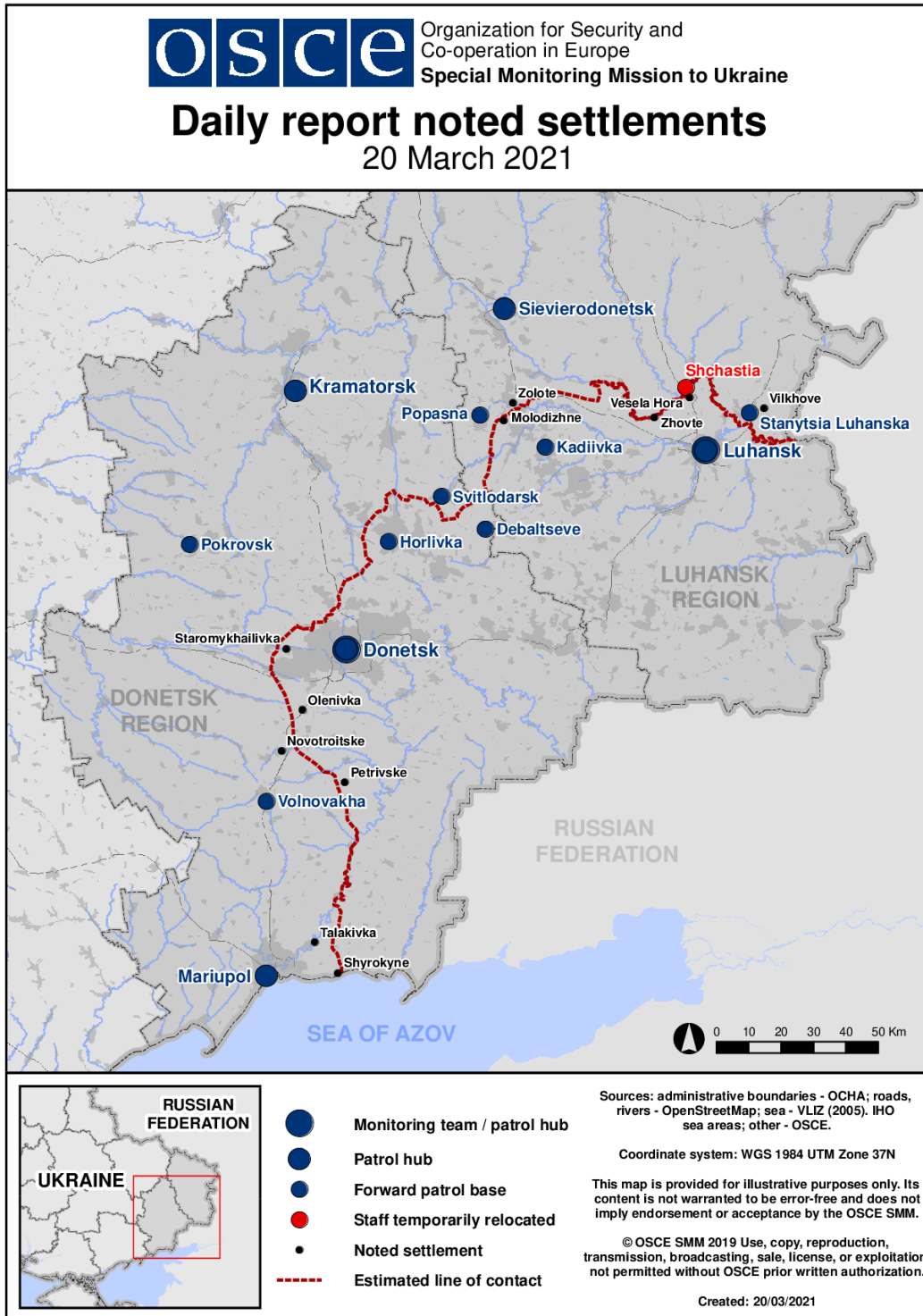
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 March 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	2-3km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 21:43
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 21:34
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 21:51
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Mar, 22:01
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Mar, 22:14
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Mar, 22:39
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Mar, 22:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 22:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Mar, 22:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Mar, 22:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Mar, 22:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Mar, 23:26
On the north-western edge of Donetsk city centre (non-government-controlled)	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 11:27
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Mar, 20:04
	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Mar, 20:07
About 2.5km SE of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	1.8km SSE	Heard	30	Shot		Small arms	19-Mar, 12:09-12:11

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).