

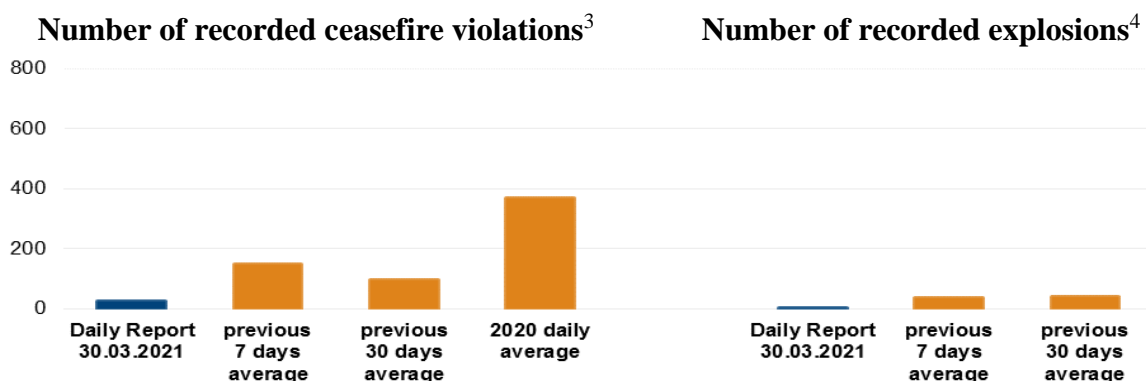
Daily Report 73/2021

30 March 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 110 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 22 ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of one of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near Vesela Hora, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It spotted people inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- 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 Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at two permanent storage sites in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 29 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.

³ Including explosions.

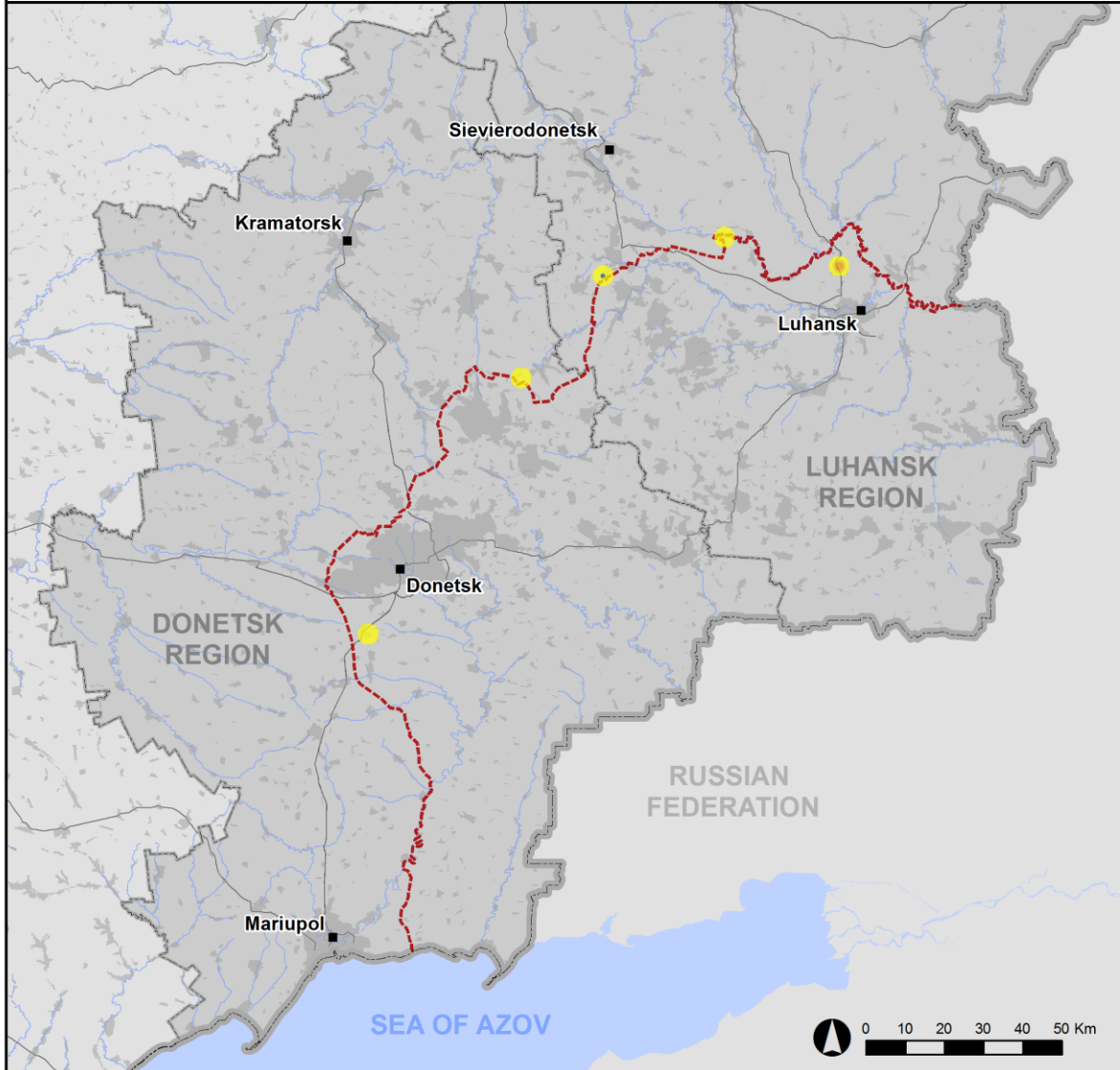
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

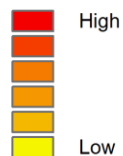


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 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: 30/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations (no explosions) in an area south-west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) and south-east of Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 110 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area south-east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded no 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 13,776 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,831 explosions, 1,656 projectiles in flight, 167 muzzle flashes, 71 illumination flares and at least 7,051 bursts and shots).

The SMM lost spatial control of one of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near Vesela Hora, Luhansk region

While positioned about 2.5km south-east of Vesela Hora to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, at 12:06, the SMM heard 20 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1.8km south-south-east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 2km south-south-east of the SMM's position. At 12:11, the Mission lost spatial control over the UAV and was not able to retrieve it.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 29 March, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw four 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).

During the day on 27 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 800m south-west of the railway bridge. The same UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations near its eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 29 March, while positioned on the southern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 4-5km west, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of

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

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 its southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the SMM saw four 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 carrying four people in medical protective gear.

On 29 March, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM 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 two self-propelled howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, in Donetsk region, the SMM observed three tanks in a compound in a government-controlled area and 23 tanks in non-government-controlled areas, the latter in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014. (For further information, see the tables below.)

Weapons storage sites

At two permanent storage sites in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region

29 March

The SMM noted that 12 tanks (six T-64 and six T-72) and four towed howitzers (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were missing for the first time.*

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

29 March

The SMM noted that eight self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) and one towed howitzer (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were missing for the first time.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone^{6,7}

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, and an anti-aircraft gun in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

While positioned in Khrystove (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk), the Mission observed a fixed-wing UAV flying in a northerly direction from the SMM position, despite the ban on the operation of any types of aerial vehicles included in the 22 July 2020 TCG decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

Anti-tank mines near Horlivka and Hnutove, Donetsk region

On 26 March, in a field on the north-western outskirts of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time approximately 34 anti-tank mines, assessed as not recently laid and belonging to the armed formations.

On 27 March, in a field about 6km south of Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted approximately 90 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 January 2020](#).)

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). It also monitored the security situation during maintenance of a water pipeline near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The Mission 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), as well as maintenance of power lines in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and between Kalynove (60km west of Luhansk) and Almazna (55km west of Luhansk).

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

⁷ In the [SMM Daily Report 22 March 2021](#), on p.5, the paragraph “On 20 March, while positioned about 2km south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw a military mini-van parked on the southern edge of road M-14. Next to it the SMM saw a black box and antennas. The Mission then saw a light-grey UAV fly about 50m north-east and land about 70m west-north-west of its position, respectively. Subsequently, the SMM saw three Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers collect the UAV and leave the area in the mini-van.” should have read as follows: “On 20 March, while positioned about 2km south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw a military mini-van parked on the southern edge of road M-14. Next to it the SMM saw a black box and antennas. The Mission then saw a light-grey UAV fly about 50m north-east and land about 70m west-north-west of its position, respectively, despite the ban on the operation of any types of aerial vehicles included in the 22 July TCG decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. Subsequently, the SMM saw three Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers collect the UAV and leave the area in the mini-van.”

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was open, but did not observe any civilian traffic passing through. It also saw that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka was open, with civilian traffic passing in both directions. While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations, the SMM heard a shot of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km south-east.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the 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 queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open 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 closed.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed two cars (both with “LPR” plates) entering Ukraine, and one car and one woman (in her forties) exiting Ukraine. After about 15 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, for about 15 minutes, the Mission saw about 50 stationary freight cars (cargo not visible) and one stationary fuel cistern about 100m east of the railway station.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, 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). 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.

Denial:

- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing “orders from superiors”.

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 in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations (of whom two visibly armed) allowed the Mission to proceed westwards only after about 22 minutes of waiting.
- At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, three members of the armed formations (of whom one visibly armed) allowed the Mission to access an area within the site only after 23 minutes of waiting.
- At another permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, a member of the armed formations allowed the Mission to enter the site only after about 33 minutes of waiting.

Other impediments:

- While positioned near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 20 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, after which the SMM lost spatial control over it and was not able to retrieve it (see above).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
29/3/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	3	Tank (type undetermined)	In a compound near a residential area in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk), where imagery also revealed the presence of seven infantry fighting vehicles ⁸	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/3/2021	20	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	Long-range UAV
	3		Near Zernove (70km south of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this table are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

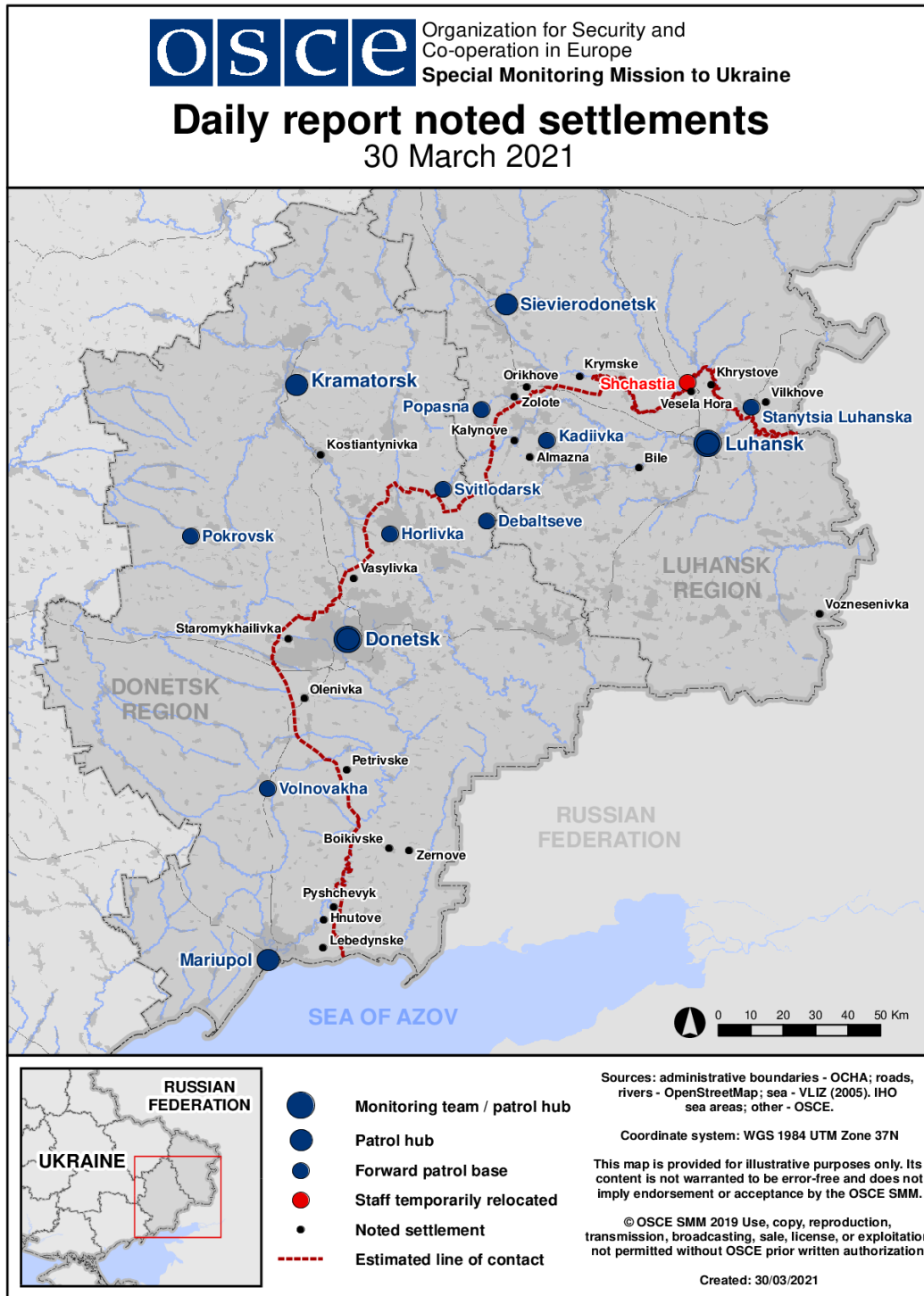
⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 29 March 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km WSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	28-Mar, 22:56
Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	29-Mar, 11:28
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Mar, 21:44
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	29-Mar, 10:04
About 2.5km SE of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	1.8km SSE	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	29-Mar, 12:06

¹⁰ 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 regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).