

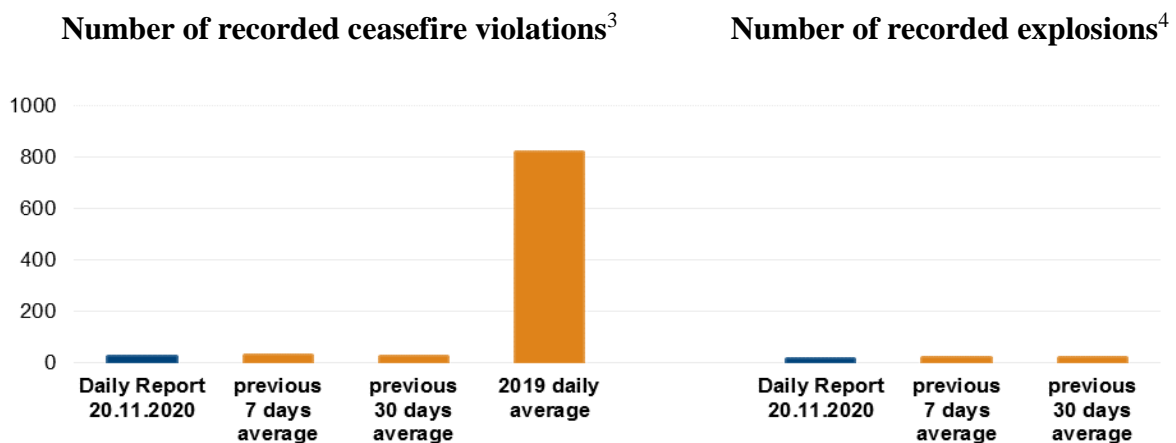
Daily Report 277/2020

20 November 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded seven ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and observed a calm situation in all three areas.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including again at a railway station in government-controlled Kostiantynivka, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 19 November 2020. 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 parking lot south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

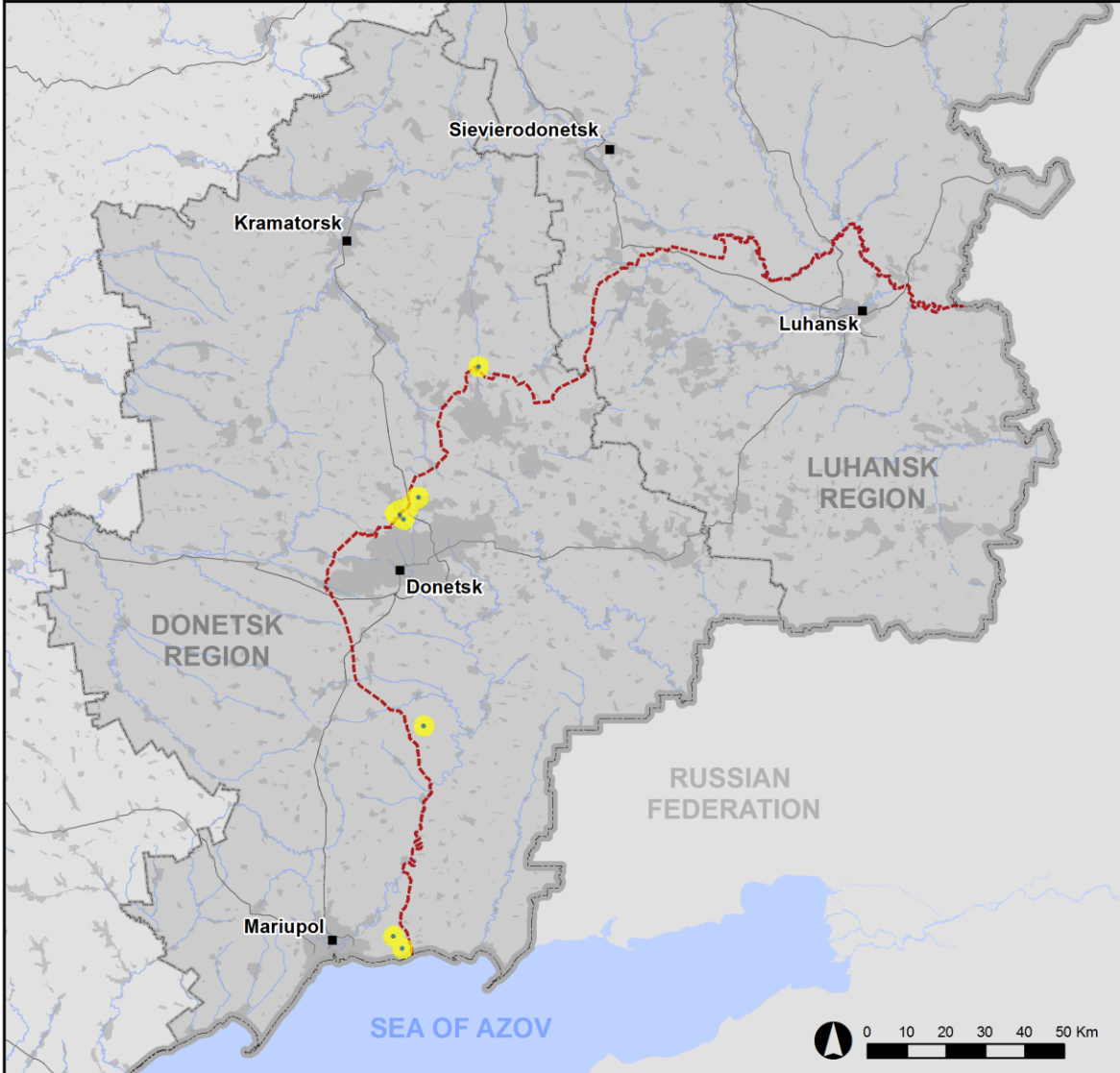
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

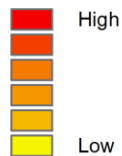


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 November 2020



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: 20/11/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations, including 12 explosions, at south-westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region, also in areas near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 2,457 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 981 explosions, 51 projectiles in flight, 32 muzzle flashes, 26 illumination flares and 1,367 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 Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the new 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** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked into the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. Inside the area, about 350m north of its southern edge, the Mission saw another member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it).

While positioned about 700m north-west of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM recorded three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** 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.

The SMM observed five tanks in a government-controlled and four multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, all in violation of withdrawal lines. The Mission also observed 51 weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, all at three railway stations in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk

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

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

and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

Mines near Zaichenko and demining near the entry-exit checkpoint near Marinka, Donetsk region

On 16 November, about 800m north-west-north of Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted about 40 anti-tank mines (TM-62), out of which 32 for the first time but assessed as not recently laid, in a field about 15m north of road T-0519 between Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk) and Zaichenko, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 11 November 2020](#)).

About 200m west of the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), in an area marked with sticks in a field 10-50m north of road H-15, the Mission observed four de-miners of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, two of whom with metal detectors.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), and demining of agricultural fields near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk) and between government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

The SMM also continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the station, the Mission recorded 17 ceasefire violations, including six undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 60 minutes, the Mission observed 13 cars (including two with “DPR” plates) and 20 people (12 women and eight men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. It also observed 13 cars (including one with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), a bus with “DPR” plates and a “Donetsk-Moscow” sign carrying about 50 passengers (mixed genders and ages), and 16 people (ten women and six men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM did not observe any cross-border traffic.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the EECPs near Marinka, Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) were operational but did not observe any traffic. It also noted that the respective corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk),

Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk) and Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at about 9:00 and 15:00, the Mission observed in total 224 people (122 women and 102 men, mixed ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and 153 people (82 women and 71 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction. The SMM also saw containers belonging to an international organisation in the area of the EECP being replaced and a golf cart operating between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

While at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge between 9:30 and 10:45, the Mission saw in total 34 people (20 women and 14 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 173 people (97 women and 73 men, mixed ages, and three children) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

The Mission noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational, while the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia remained closed.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge, the Mission observed six workers with heavy equipment carrying out electrical works and installing fences around sanitary facilities, and six workers clearing vegetation from the side of a road about 500m south of the checkpoint.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Kherson, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv, 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 Package of Measures 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 11 November 2020](#)). 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 railway station in Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk), a Ukrainian Armed Forces officer [again](#) denied the Mission access to the station depot, stating that the SMM should have informed the Ukrainian Armed Forces about the visit in advance.

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:

- On five occasions, a single SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near government-controlled Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk), Talakivka (90km south of Donetsk) (twice) and Pyshevyk (84km south of Donetsk), and over areas near Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAVs' position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/11/2020	5	Tank	Near Pidlisne (70km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/11/2020	4	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Novoamvrosiivske (56km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/11/2020	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K37 Buk) with 12 missile crates	At the railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	15	Tank (T-64)		
19/11/2020	2	Tank (type undetermined)	At a railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	5	Tank (type undetermined)	At a railway station in Druzhkivka (72km north of Donetsk)	
	14	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122 mm)		
	12	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152 mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/11/2020	7	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Pidlisne (70km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-1)		
19/11/2020	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk)	

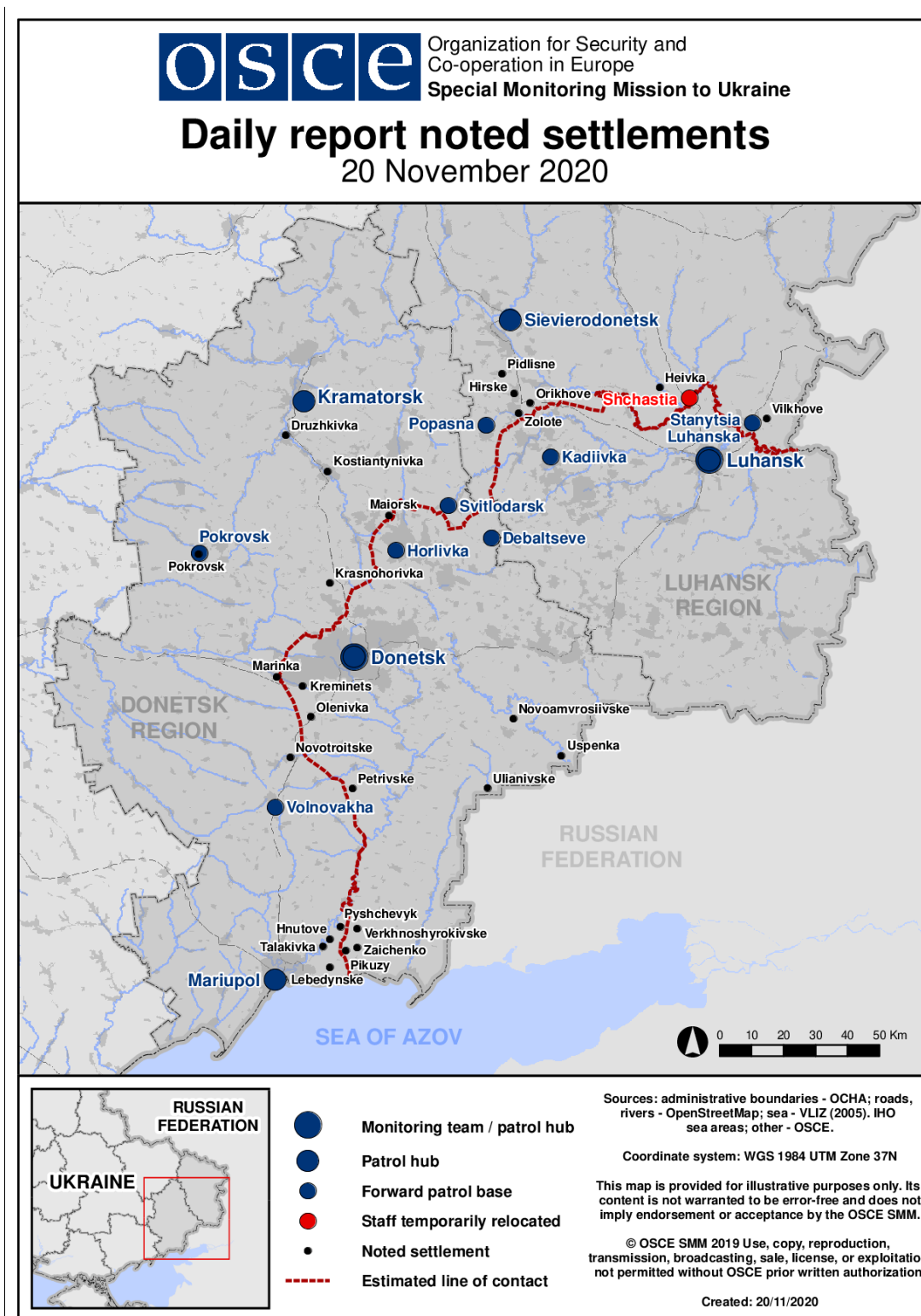
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 November 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Nov, 19:56
	2-3km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Nov, 21:25
About 700m NW of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	19-Nov, 10:28
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SSW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	19-Nov, 08:59
About 1.5km E of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	19-Nov, 10:40
	3-4km SE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	19-Nov, 10:54
	4-5km E	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	19-Nov, 11:07
	4-6km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Nov, 11:16
About 2km S of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Nov, 11:52
	3-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Nov, 13:28
About 900m W of Kodema (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Nov, 12:48

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).