

Daily Report 62/2021

17 March 2021¹

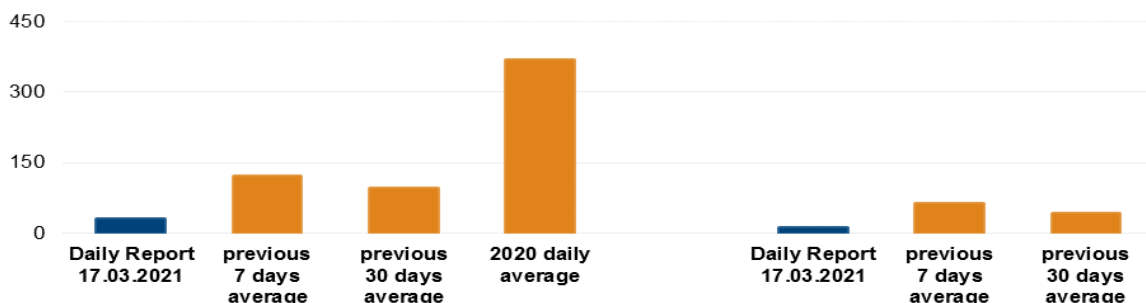
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 30 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 93 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle 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. It heard one undetermined explosion, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station, near the time of the transfer of workers between Yasynuvata and the station.
- 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 Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near non-government-controlled Spartak, 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, 16 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.

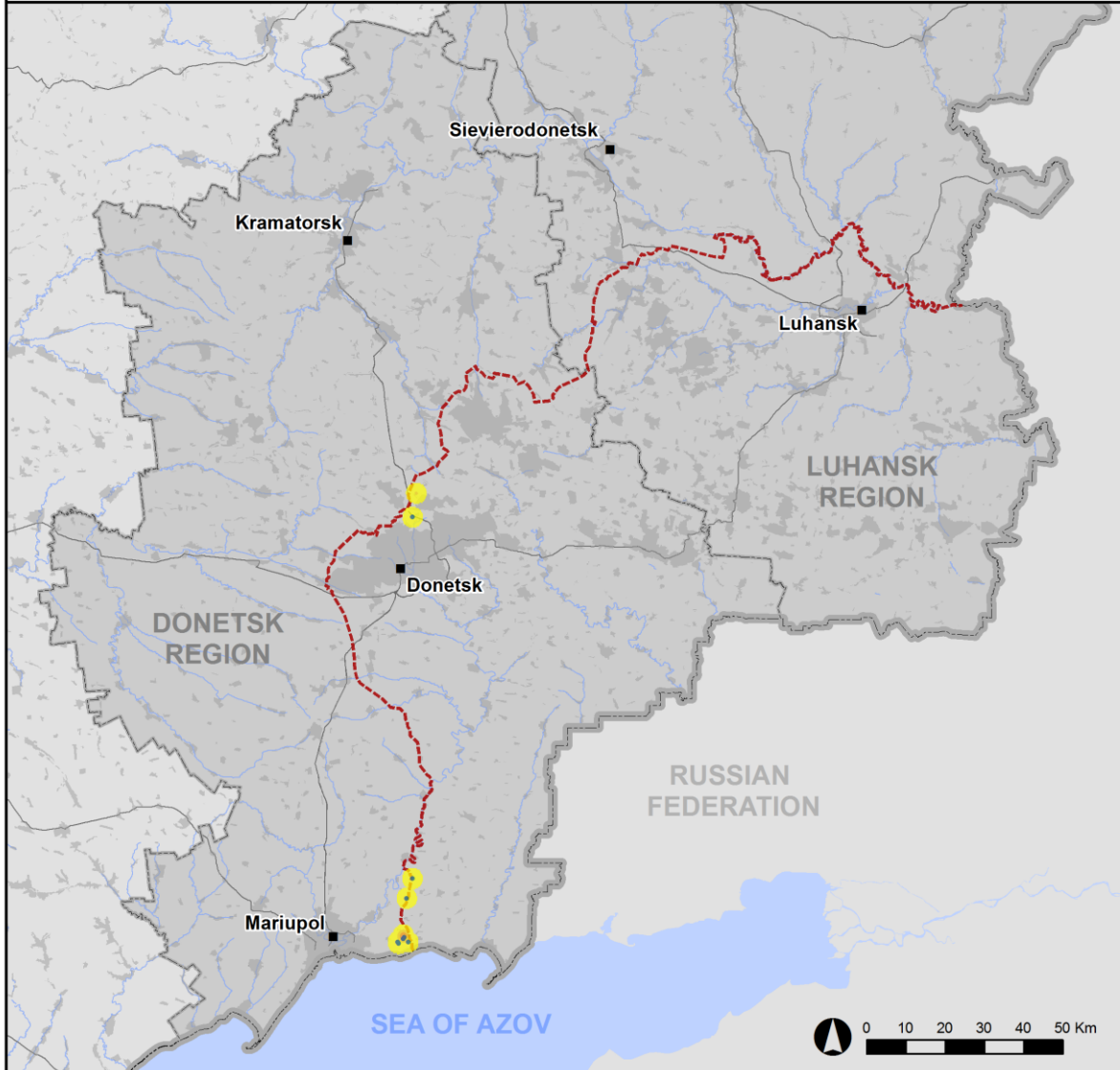
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

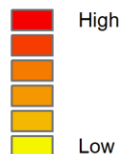
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 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: 17/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 30 ceasefire violations, including 12 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and at north-easterly and southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 93 ceasefire violations, the majority of which occurred 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 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 12,453 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,478 explosions, 1,496 projectiles in flight, 125 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,291 bursts and shots).

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 saw three 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).

On 15 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people carrying probable weapons near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner. On the northern edge of the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted one armoured combat vehicle about 400m west of its north-eastern corner. Outside the disengagement area, the UAV spotted two armoured combat vehicles: one about 300m north-west and one about 600m west-north-west of its north-eastern corner.

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, the same UAV again spotted approximately 800 anti-tank mines: 300 about 1km north-west and 500 about 1.5km west-north-west of the area’s south-eastern corner, all assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [18 January 2020](#) and [6 November 2020](#).)

On 16 March, 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 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 about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

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 the latter location, the SMM saw for the first time an aluminium barrier (composed of a metal part fixed on the western edge of the road and a pole), assessed as to be used to regulate traffic, extending across both lanes of road T-1316.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw three 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.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed six cars driving northwards towards Styła (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk): each carrying between one to three men. While positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, about 250m east-south-east of the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, the SMM saw one car carrying one man and driving eastward through the settlement. All the abovementioned men were wearing military-style clothing.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 27 self-propelled howitzers and one self-propelled anti-aircraft system at two railway stations in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

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

Anti-tank mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) near Marinka, Donetsk city, Vodiane and Pikuzy, Donetsk region

On 14 March, about 1km north-east of the northern edge of Marinka (government-controlled, 23 km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time an object assessed as probable tail fin of a multiple launch rocket system round (122mm) embedded in the ground (unable to be assessed if recent or not) and about 300m further west, it again spotted nine anti-tank mines (one probable) laid across a local road. The anti-tank mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. About 1km north-east of the previous anti-tank mines, on the north-western edge of the Petrovskyi district of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, the UAV again spotted 18 anti-tank mines laid across a local road, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 5 March 2020](#).)

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.

On 15 March, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 400 anti-tank mines in a field about 2.5km north of Vodiane (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 April 2020](#)). About 800m further north, the UAV again spotted 49 anti-tank mines (probable TM-62) in a field and across a road leading towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 5 February 2019](#)). In a field about 3km further north, the UAV spotted [again](#) 53 anti-tank mines, assessed as part of a larger minefield. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

About 800m north-west of Pikuzy, the UAV spotted again four anti-tank mines (probable TM-62) laid across the abovementioned road, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 22 January 2020](#).)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, the SMM heard eight ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. The abovementioned explosion occurred near the time of the transfer of DFS workers between Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) and the station.

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable emergency repairs of power lines near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), in Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk) and in Khrystove (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk) as well as maintenance to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and 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 Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were 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.

***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 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.

Denial:

- On 16 March, on the southern edge of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), the SMM saw for the first time four concrete blocks, placed across the western lane of a local road, preventing the Mission from driving northwards towards the destroyed Donetsk international airport (8km north-west of Donetsk). The Mission had not seen these blocks on 14 March.

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

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north 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 positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/3/2021	15	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>)		
16/3/2021	12	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	At the railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/3/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (three undetermined)	Near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
15/3/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
16/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Voitove (33km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

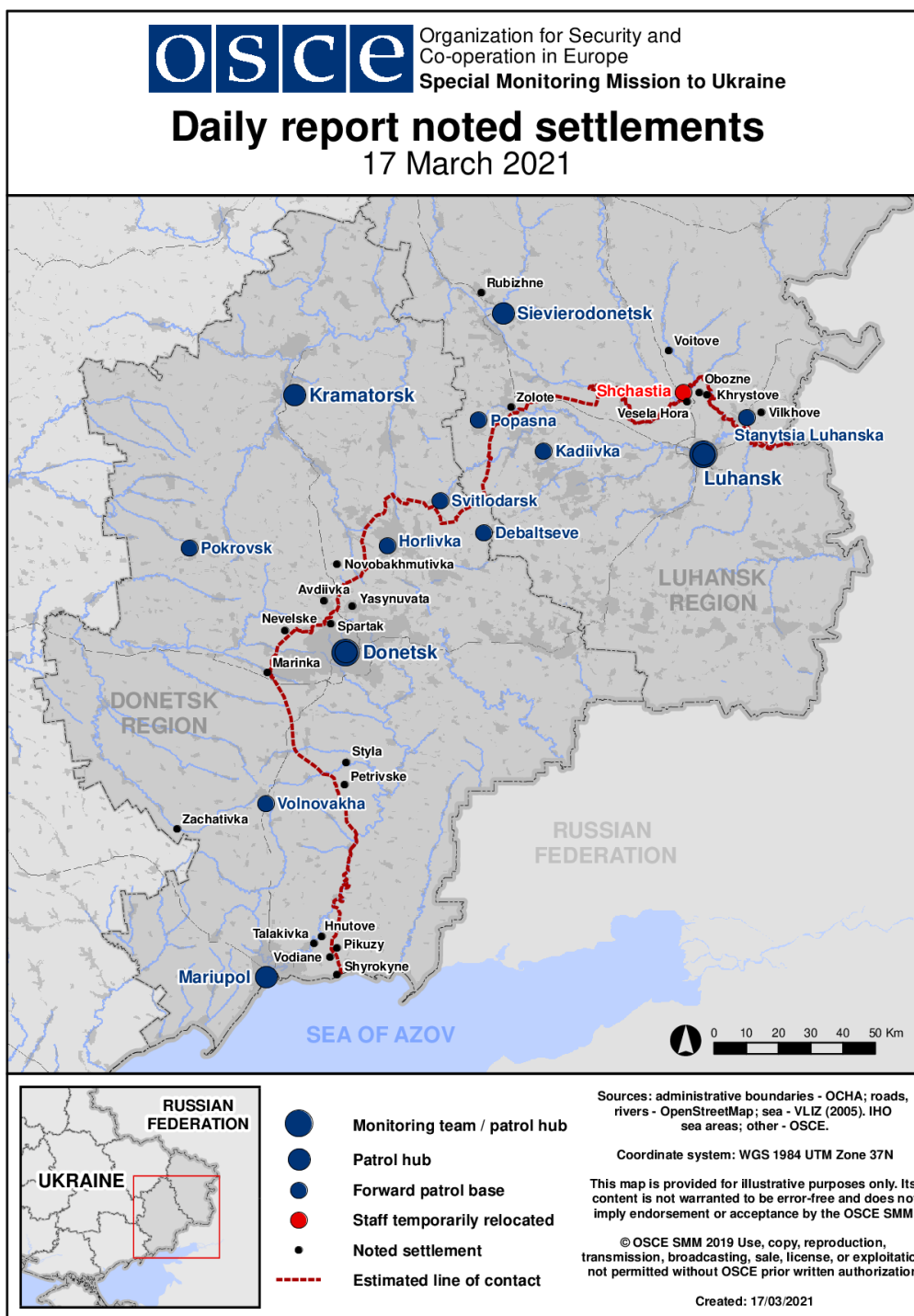
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 March 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 23:33
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 18:32
	2-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 18:33
	3-7km N	Recorded	10	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Mar, 19:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 21:02
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Mar, 23:33
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	16-Mar, 01:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	16-Mar, 01:45
2-4km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 03:00	
Pavlopil (government- controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 10:27
About 1km NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-5km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 11:45-11:50
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government- controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	16-Mar, 10:36
	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	16-Mar, 10:51
	3-5km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	16-Mar, 10:57
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non- government- controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 13:38

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).