

Daily Report 236/2020

3 October 2020¹

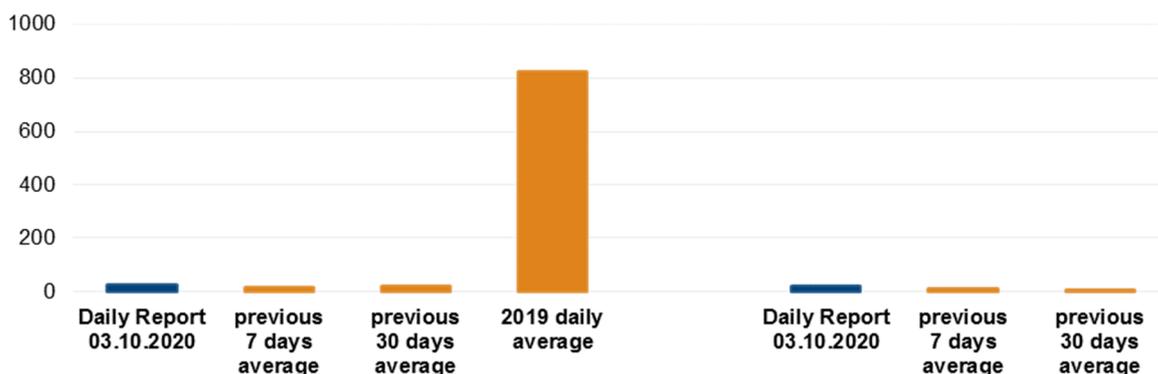
Summary

- The SMM recorded 18 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and six in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and four in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint in Stanytsia Luhanska remained closed because of the wildfire.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a non-government controlled checkpoint near Olenivka, 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, 2 October 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer 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

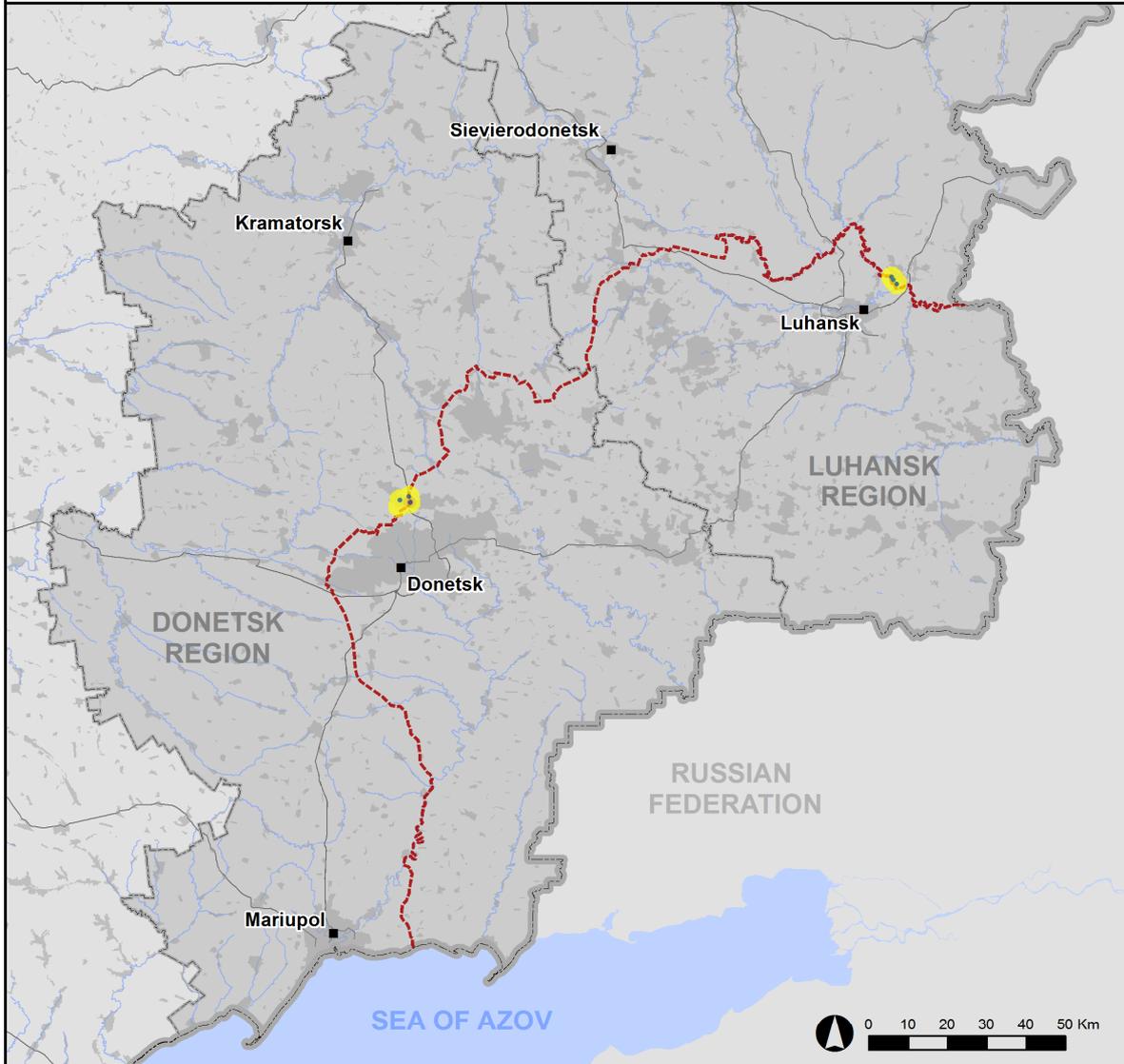
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 2 October 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low

- 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: 02/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 18 ceasefire violations – all at easterly directions of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), including 12 undetermined explosions and three explosions assessed as airbursts. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded six ceasefire violations, all of them explosions in areas near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations in the region.

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 1,478 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 331 explosions, 14 projectiles in flight, three muzzle flashes, 14 illumination flares and 1,116 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On the night of 2-3 October, the SMM cameras at the Prince Ihor Monument south-east of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge recorded two undetermined explosions. On the same night, while on the eastern edge of Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission heard four undetermined explosions. All these explosions were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 2 October, outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom it saw enter the disengagement area, walk about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

About 400-500m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area along both sides of road T-1316, the SMM saw six workers with heavy equipment welding pillars and conducting groundwork.

While positioned at four 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 zone⁵

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above), north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

About 200m north-west of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint north of the bridge in Shchastia, the SMM observed five workers with an excavator digging a ditch, reportedly for sewage at the junction of road H-21 and road T-1309. South-east of the checkpoint, the Mission observed four workers and one crane removing concrete blocks from road H-21. The SMM also observed that barbed wire had been rolled out along a section of the east side of road H-21 between the checkpoint and the intersection 200m north-west of the checkpoint, reportedly to keep pedestrians out of the field to the east of road H-21.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable maintenance on the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk); railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk); and maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote.

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

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter COVID-19 outbreak

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk), as well as its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), were operational.

While at the EECP, between 09:10-12:00 and between 12:50-15:00, the Mission saw a total of four buses (one with nine elderly women, three empty), eight cars and 41 pedestrians (four men and 34 women, mixed ages, and three young children) entering government-controlled areas, as well as six buses (five containing four to 12 passengers each and one empty), 13 cars and 63 pedestrians (mixed ages and genders) travelling to non-government-controlled areas.

While at the checkpoint near Olenivka, between 08:55 and 12:00 and between 13:40 and 15:00, the SMM saw in total five cars and 40 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including one child) travelling towards government-controlled areas, as well as seven cars and 50 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, and five children) entering non-government-controlled areas.

Wildfire near the entry-exit checkpoint in Stanytsia Luhanska

The SMM continued to monitor the situation concerning wildfires near the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska (see [SMM Daily Report 2 October](#)). It noted that most of the wildfires in the area had been extinguished and that the EECP remained closed.

In areas surrounding Stanytsia Luhanska, between government-controlled Vilkhove, Valuiske (20km north-east of Luhansk), Makarove (19km north-east of Luhansk) and Malynove (19km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed large swaths of burnt forest and brush but did not see any significant damage to civilian and commercial structures.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, 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, [SMM Daily Report 24 September 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 checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission was denied passage by an armed member of the armed formations, who said the patrol needed to obtain permission from senior members of the armed formations.

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.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/09/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Trokhizbenka (32km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)		
02/10/2020	1	Combat engineering vehicle (BAT-2)	Near Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM variant)		

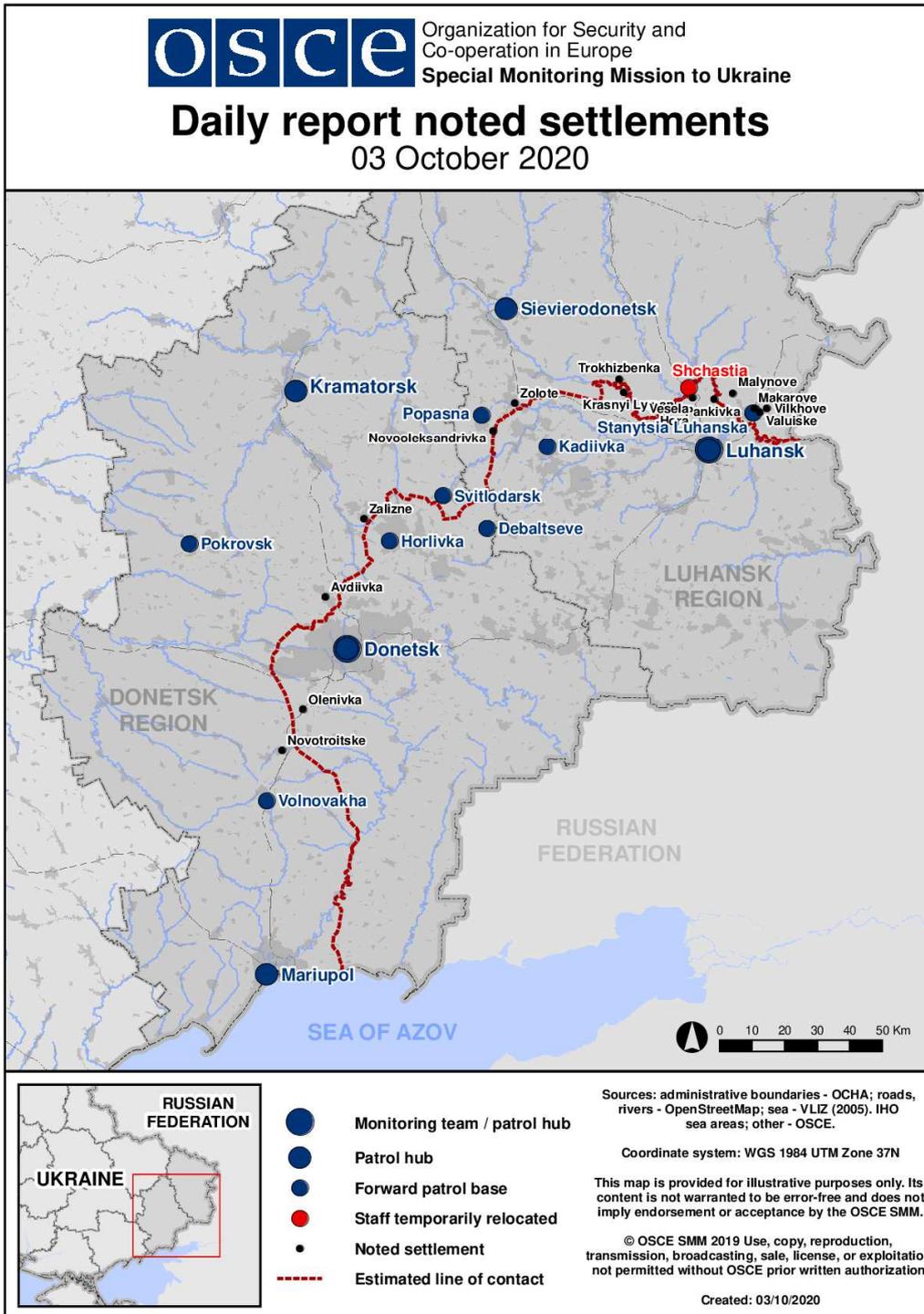
⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 2 October 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:52
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:53
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:54
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:55
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	2-Oct, 01:56
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to previous event	N/K	2-Oct, 01:56
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	2-Oct, 01:57
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:58
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 01:59
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 02:04
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 02:06
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	2-Oct, 03:13
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	2-Oct, 03:13
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	2-Oct, 03:16
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	2-Oct, 03:16
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	2-Oct, 03:17
1-2km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	2-Oct, 02:44	
SMM camera at Prince Ihor Monument SE of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km NE of Luhansk)	3-5km NW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	2-Oct, 02:50
SMM camera on parking lot south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km NE of Luhansk)	3-5km NW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	2-Oct, 02:30
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	3-5km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	2-Oct, 23:36-01:57

⁷ 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 regions⁸



⁸ 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).