

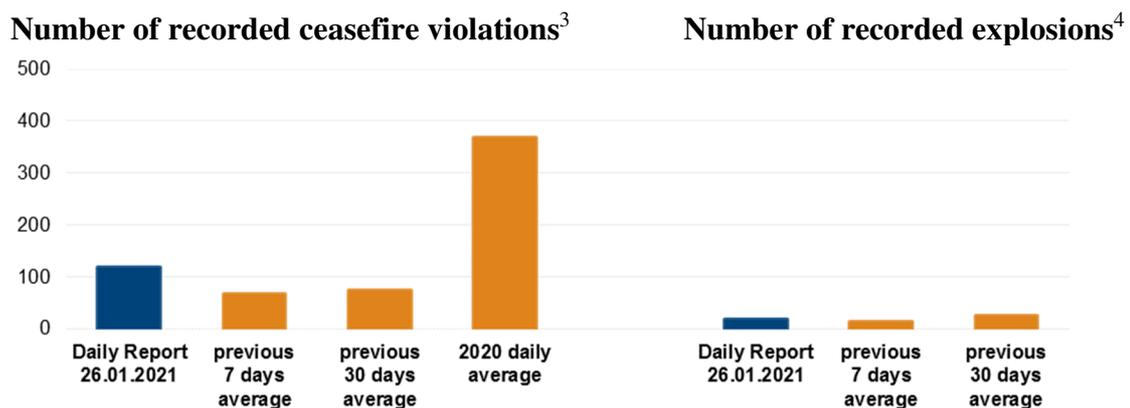
# Daily Report 19/2021

26 January 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- The SMM recorded 62 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 17 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 56 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and spotted people in the latter two areas during daytime.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region, and at border crossing points outside government control near Voznesenivka and Dovzhanske, Luhansk region.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and Zolote were not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

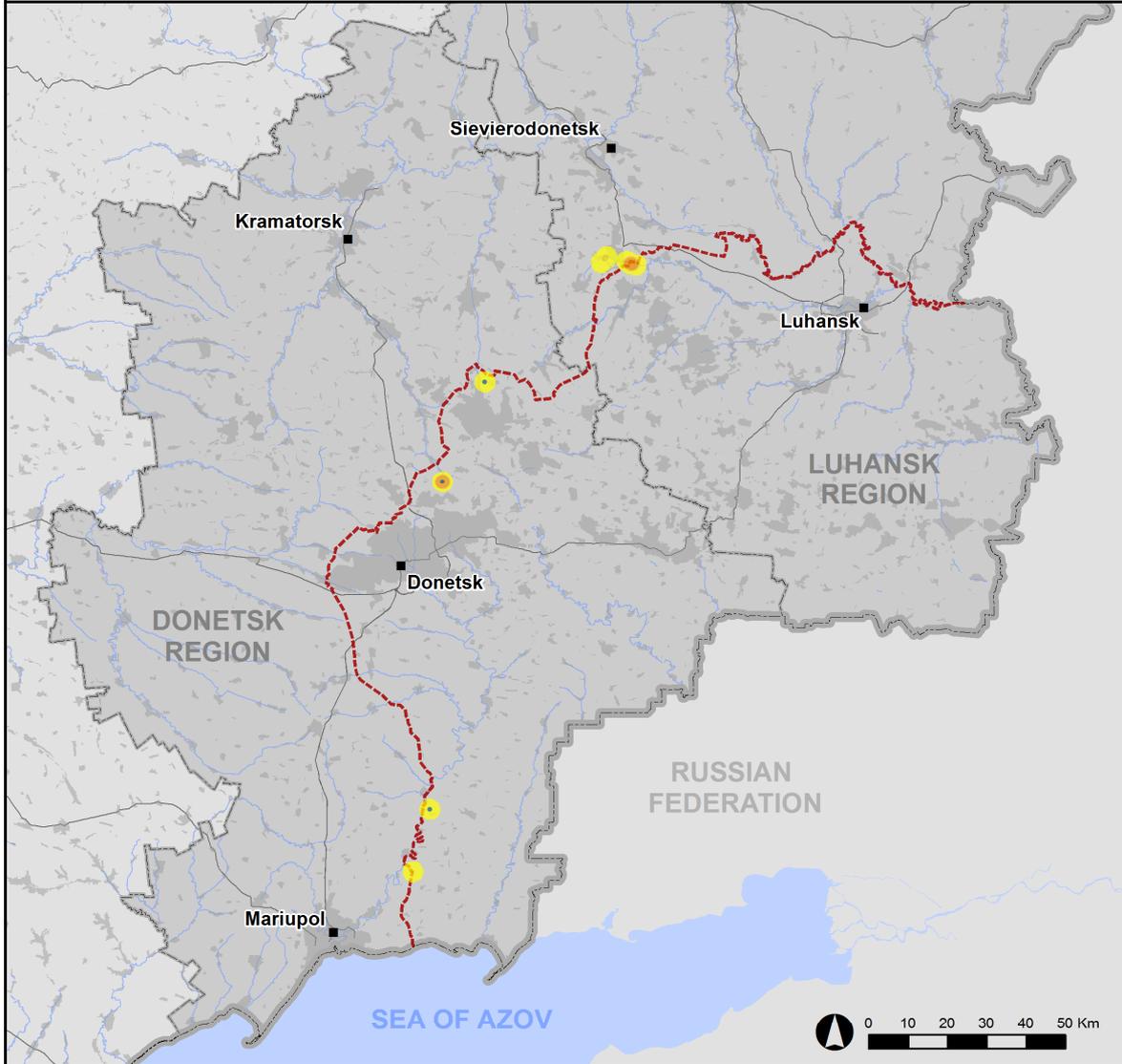
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

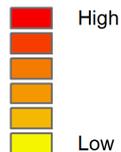


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 25 January 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 26/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 62 ceasefire violations, including four undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas east of Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) on the morning of 25 January. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 17 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 56 ceasefire violations, including 14 undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred at northerly, north-easterly and north-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM 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 6,889 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,768 explosions, 920 projectiles in flight, 94 muzzle flashes, 55 illumination flares and at least 3,052 bursts and shots).

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

On 25 January, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 24 January, on the eastern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

During the day on 25 January, while positioned at two locations close to the area, the SMM heard 14 undetermined explosions and 42 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 25 January, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw four workers digging holes on both sides of road T-1316 about 20m north of the area’s southern edge. It also [again](#) observed four containers along the northern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).

Also on the same day, near the same abovementioned checkpoint, the Mission spotted two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), both of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

During the day on 24 January, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people near a former position of the armed formations about 200m west-north-west of the area’s south-eastern corner.

---

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

On 25 January, in a field about 130m west-north-west of the north-eastern corner of the area, south of the road between Petrivske and Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission again saw two anti-tank mines (for similar observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 October 2019](#)).

On the same day, in a field about 1km north of Petrivske, the SMM saw for the first time a mine hazard sign (a red plastic square with white crossbones and “Danger, Mines” written on it in Russian).

### **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, SMM observed a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and 12 howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw ten towed howitzers loaded on a moving freight train in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

### **Weapons permanent storage sites**

*At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region*  
25 January

The SMM noted that one tank (T-72) remained missing.

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

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

### **SMM facilitation of repairs 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 facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to sewage infrastructure near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk) and railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near 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

---

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

(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 operational, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas. It also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational 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 not operational.

### **Border areas outside government control**

While at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the Mission observed a bus with “LPR” plates (with 20 passengers, mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. After about ten minutes, two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the Mission observed no traffic in either direction. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka for about 20 minutes, the SMM observed a stationary locomotive with no carriages attached to it.

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.*

Denials:

- 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.
- At a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations asked the Mission to leave the area.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission further passage, claiming that an escort was required but could not be provided. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian vehicles and people passing through in both directions.

*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:<sup>7</sup>

- On 24 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk). The same UAV also experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas near Umanske (government-controlled, 25km north-west of Donetsk).
- On 25 January, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over an area near Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).

---

<sup>7</sup> 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' positions.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
25/1/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	In Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
24/1/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
25/1/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzers (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		Patrol
	4	Towed howitzers (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
24/1/2021	10	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	On a freight train passing through the railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
22/1/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Pyshevyk (84km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
24/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novotoshkovske (53km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
25/1/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

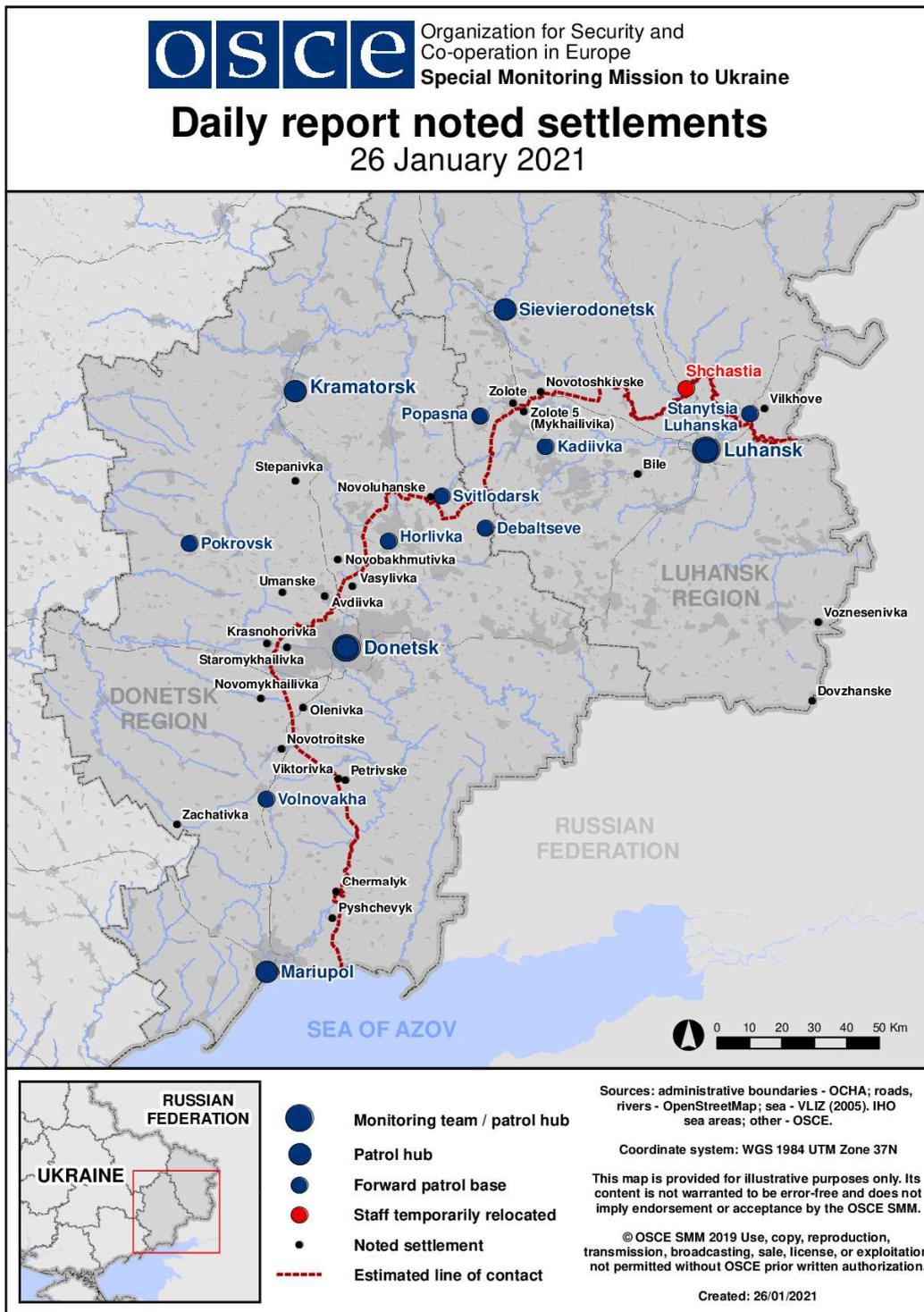
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 January 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	4-6km SSE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Jan, 21:46
	4-6km SSE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Jan, 22:35
Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Heard	30	Burst		HMG	25-Jan, 10:45-10:50
	3-5km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jan, 10:45-10:50
	3-5km E	Heard	6	Shot		Small arms	25-Jan, 10:45-10:50
	3-5km E	Heard	15	Burst		HMG	25-Jan, 10:58-11:00
About 1km E of Holmivskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jan, 11:56
About 1 km NNW of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	5-7km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jan, 11:33
SE edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk )	1.5-2km N	Heard	21	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area)	Small arms	25-Jan, 12:59-13:09
	1.5-2km N	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area)	Small arms	25-Jan, 12:59-13:09
	1.5-2km N	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jan, 12:59-13:09
	1.5-2km N	Heard	10	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area)	HMG	25-Jan, 12:59-13:09
	2-3km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jan, 12:59-13:09
	1.5-2.5km NE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jan, 13:23-13:30
	1.5-2.5km NE	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the	Small arms	25-Jan, 13:23-13:30

<sup>9</sup> 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.

					disengagement area		
E edge of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	5-6km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jan, 13:26
	3-4km SW	Heard	7	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	25-Jan, 13:30-13:50

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).