

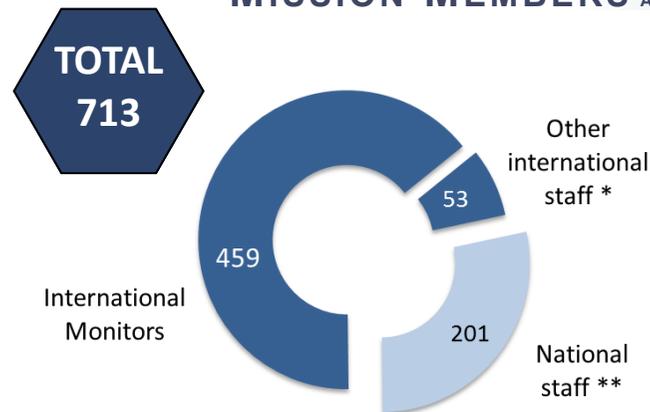


SMM Chief Monitor, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan visited Mariupol on 18-19 March 2015.

## LATEST NEWS

- On 12 March the SMM's mandate was extended to 31 March 2016 by a consensus decision of the OSCE's 57 participating States. The decision allows for the number of SMM monitors to be increased up to 1,000, as necessary.
- SMM Chief Monitor Apakan thanked all participating States for their continued support for the Mission and said that the SMM is now able to continue to play its important role in assisting Ukraine to achieve peace and stability.
- On 18-19 March Apakan visited Mariupol. There, he visited one of the main observation points to assess the situation in and around Shyrokyne. He also met the SMM team working in Mariupol as well as the city's Mayor.
- The ceasefire in eastern Ukraine is largely holding but there continue to be violations in and around Donetsk airport and Shyrokyne.
- On 23 March Apakan called on all sides to declare a temporary truce in order to allow for the provision of humanitarian aid and access by OSCE monitors into Shyrokyne.
- On 24-25 March the Deputy Chief Monitor is traveling to Shyrokyne to assess the general security situation, facilitate access for OSCE monitors to the east of Shyrokyne and encourage parties to de-escalate tensions.
- The SMM is restrained in fulfilling its monitoring functions by restrictions imposed by third parties and security considerations including the lack of information on the whereabouts of landmines.
- Daily SMM reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian, Russian) on the OSCE website: [www.osce.org/ukraine-smm](http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm)

## MISSION MEMBERS AS OF 25/03



\* Other international staff includes Chief Monitor, Deputy Chief Monitor, advisors, analysts, spokesperson etc.

\*\* National staff includes assistants, advisors and other administrative personnel.

## MISSION MONITORS

|                                       |     |                    |            |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------|
| Albania                               | 3   | Kyrgyzstan         | 7          |
| Armenia                               | 2   | Latvia             | 6          |
| Austria                               | 15  | Lithuania          | 2          |
| Belarus                               | 2   | Moldova            | 13         |
| Belgium                               | 2   | Montenegro         | 1          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                | 8   | Netherlands        | 7          |
| Bulgaria                              | 10  | Norway             | 10         |
| Canada                                | 17  | Poland             | 17         |
| Croatia                               | 12  | Portugal           | 5          |
| Czech Republic                        | 16  | Romania            | 21         |
| Denmark                               | 14  | Russian Federation | 26         |
| Estonia                               | 6   | Serbia             | 4          |
| Finland                               | 19  | Slovakia           | 5          |
| France                                | 7   | Slovenia           | 1          |
| former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 4   | Spain              | 10         |
| Georgia                               | 3   | Sweden             | 15         |
| Germany                               | 18  | Switzerland        | 11         |
| Greece                                | 8   | Tajikistan         | 1          |
| Hungary                               | 20  | Turkey             | 11         |
| Ireland                               | 8   | United Kingdom     | 23         |
| Italy                                 | 20  | United States      | 49         |
|                                       |     | <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>459</b> |
| Male                                  | 376 | Female             | 83         |

## MONITORING THE WITHDRAWAL OF HEAVY WEAPONRY IN EASTERN UKRAINE

- The SMM is monitoring the movement of heavy weapons from the contact line to the respective withdrawal lines.
- The SMM now sees mutual actions towards compliance with the Minsk agreements. Although the SMM follows and monitors the withdrawal of heavy weapons, the Mission is not yet in a position to provide verification of withdrawals.
- For the SMM to confirm the weapons withdrawal the Mission needs to have baseline information: where the weapons are based at the moment, along what routes they will be withdrawn, and the sites where the heavy weapons will be concentrated/stored.
- In order to verify that the withdrawal areas are free of heavy weapons, the SMM requires full and unfettered access.