



SITUATION ON EECPS. 10–14 JUNE 2020

During the period of quarantine restrictions, thousands of people have been trapped on both sides of the contact line. Most of those people who had justified reasons and all the necessary supporting documents for crossing, could not pass home, to their families, work, etc. Despite the efforts from different human rights organizations to help people to enjoy freedom of movement very few managed to cross.

On 9 June, the Headquarters of the Joint Forces Operation (JFO) reported that from 10 June two out of five EECPs, namely Stanytsia Luhanska (Luhansk oblast) and Marinka (Donetsk oblast), would resume their work.

However, as of 15 June, the problem of freedom of movement across the contact line remains unresolved: 1) in Donetsk oblast EECPs operate only from the government-controlled area (GCA) side; 2) in Luhansk oblast the passage was allowed only on 13–15 June according to the lists, which order of formation remains opaque and incomprehensible to the public; 3) there is no information from the official authorities of Ukraine on the prospects of resumption of normal operation of the EECPs and the progress of negotiations with the Russian Federation and the de facto authorities on the non-government-controlled area (NGCA) on this issue. It is also worth noting that during this period in Stanytsia Luhanska, 34 children, who intended to pass the trial external assessment on 15 June, passed through the EECP. But the Cabinet of Ministers canceled its attendance-based conducting at the last minute.



CHRONOLOGY OF QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

- 16 MARCH** – the restrictions of the crossing of the contact line were introduced on the NGCA side.
- 18 MARCH** – train, air and bus intercity transportation was suspended within Ukraine.
- 22 MARCH** – citizens were no longer allowed to pass through the EECPs.
- 8 JUNE** – Marinka and Stanytsia Luhanska EECPs partially resumed operating.
- 10 JUNE** – JFO announced a partial resumption of the EECPs operation.

HOW EVENTS UNFOLDED AT EECPS

10 JUNE

Stanytsia Luhanska EECP

45 people were waiting for the opening of the EECP. While waiting in a queue, a 57-year-old man fainted, an ambulance took him. The EECP started its work at 11:00. State Border Guard Service (SBGS) servicemen allowed to cross the first six people through the EECP on the GCA side but in half an hour it became clear that people were blocked on the NGCA side of the EECP.

Maiorske EECP

The EECP started working at 6:00 and operated in a restricted mode. As of 14:00, three men arrived at the EECP to cross the contact line. However, they were recommended to go to Marinka EECP.



Marinka EECP

47 cars and about 25 people were waiting for the opening of the EECP. The EECP started its work at 11:00. In the NGCA direction there was allowed to cross the vehicle, which later, after activating the application "Act at home", had to return to the GCA side. Half an hour after the start of EECP operation, a woman fainted in the queue and she was given the first aid. Before the opening of the EECP, a man who felt bad, was taken away by an ambulance. At 12:00, people who were waiting to cross the contact line tried to break through the SBGS servicemen in the NGCA direction. There was a decision to allow crossing to four people, so that people could see for themselves that they would be rejected to cross at the NGCA side. In general, 50 people expressed a wish to cross the EECP. The EECP finished its operating at 14:00

11 JUNE

Stanytsia Luhanska EECP

Over 30 people were waiting for the opening of the EECP. The SBGS on the GCA permitted five people to cross towards the NGCA. All of them subsequently returned.

Marinka EECP

Immediately after the opening of the EECP, three people, who had crossed the contact line the day before, returned from NGCA and stayed overnight in the open air near the "zero" checkpoint. At 11:30, a car with two people inside was allowed to pass the contact line from the GCA side. In the end, those people stayed overnight near the EECP because they had not been allowed to cross on the NGCA side.

Maiorske EECP

Two women spent all the night on the bus stop. They refused to go back to their relatives in GCA and said that they would wait for the opening of the EECP. In addition, a married couple who were trying to take their child from the NGCA side came to Maiorske EECP: they had the appropriate permission and wanted to take the child from a grandmother at the "zero" checkpoint. Unfortunately, there was no permission from the NGCA side – so the parents had to go back.



12 JUNE

Marinka EECP

A man died at Marinka EECP. He was 59 years old. He arrived at the EECP on 10 June. He was hoping to cross the contact line. Then he felt bad – an ambulance took him away to Selydove, he received a qualified medical care. However, he did not want to stay in the hospital and decided to come back to the EECP. At night, the man felt bad and died. In addition, nine people spent the night on Marinka EECP – six of them on the bus stop.

After the start of operation, the body was transported for burial from NGCA to the GCA side by pre-agreement between the parties.

Stanytsia Luhanska EECP

About 40 people were waiting for the opening of the EECP in the morning. Similar to the previous days, only the first five people were allowed to cross for a start. It was done not to put all people in danger, since there were a lot of older people in the queue who might get a sunstroke on the heat. However, the first five people who had passed, came back: they were not allowed to cross the contact line at NGCA.

So after a while, people started to diverge from the EECP.



Maiorske EECP

A woman spent the night on an open air on Maiorske EECP – she has not even got money for food.

13 AND 14 JUNE

Stanytsia Luhanska EECP

Crossing took place from both sides – according to previously agreed lists.

On 13 June, over 90 people were allowed to cross the contact line from the NGCA. About 20 of them were children who planned to take External Independent Testing. The vast majority of them were accompanied by their parents. In the second half of the day, people started crossing from GCA to NGCA. Totally, over more than 30 people were allowed to cross from GCA to the NGCA side. Three of them returned because they were not on the list.

On 14 June, only 75 people were allowed to cross to GCA. Two of them indicated External Independent Testing as the purpose of the crossing. The two were freed from the necessity of self-isolation and establishing the application of "Act at home". Other 45 people installed the app. 11 people were sent to the observation.

106 people passed from GCA to NGCA.

STORIES: NEW RESIDENTS OF EECPs

Marinka EECP

▶ A husband and a wife, both in their 70s, somebody's parents, somebody's grandparents, who had to spend the night on Marinka EECP – in an old car. Actually, for the quarantine's period that old car became home for them - either at cold spring nights or the first hot summer days, those people had to live in the car. And not because they are homeless. They just came to GCA to reissue documents – and did not manage to return home: the EECP stopped allowing people to pass due to the quarantine. Hence, firstly they lived near Maiorske EECP, hoping that the situation would not be prolonged. Then, thanks to the help of the Zaitseve Military Civil Administration they managed to find a shelter for a certain time. These days, it seemed to them that all this horror was finally over – and they were about to find themselves at home. At least, the older people went to Marinka EECP with such thoughts. But in vain. They had finally decided to stay at the EECP and wait for its opening. In the car, that became home to people in their 70s. At the time of release of this digest, they are still on EECP.

Maiorske EECP

▶ She was a little over 60. Originally from Krasnyi Luch of Luhansk oblast. The quarantine found her in Kramatorsk where she took care of a sick relative. She did not have time to go home, so she had to stay there during the quarantine months. She heard that EECP operation would be resumed on 10 June – and came there. When it became clear that there would not be crossing – she decided to stay overnight under the open air. To wait.

▶ A woman with a disability, 50 years old, from Makiivka. Her mother and son are waiting for her at home. When the quarantine was introduced, she was visiting relatives in Nizhyn – and came there for a reason, in business: she had to change her Oschadbank card. She didn't have time to return before the closing of the EECP and stayed with relatives. She heard about the possible opening of EECPs – and decided to try to get home at any cost. She had no means of money support. She travelled by hitchhiking, on foot... To find out that there was no crossing. She stayed on the EECP – because there was nowhere to go.

