RID: 1st Session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group
(Riga, 12 – 15 November 2012)

Subject: Report according to RID 1.8.5 of events that occurred on 11 May 2012 in Godinne (Belgium) during the transport of dangerous goods

Transmitted by Belgium

Summary

1. On 11 May 2011 in Godinne (Belgium), a freight train collided (at about 90 km/h) with another freight train, which was stationary. The train that was hit was composed of 28 wagons, 4 of which were carrying dangerous goods (22nd, 23rd, 24th and 28th wagons). The 27th wagon was a flat wagon loaded with metal girders. The 26th wagon was an empty, uncleaned L10BH tank which had contained a non RID product.

2. Following the impact:

   – the 28th wagon (last tank-wagon containing carbon disulphide 336/1131) was subject to a violent impact. It derailed, but did not leak. The tank was emptied before being righted;

   – the 26th wagon (tank-wagon not containing dangerous goods) derailed and the L10BH tank was penetrated by the steel girders from the 27th wagon;

   – the 24th wagon (tank-wagon containing butyl acrylates, stabilized 39/2348) was subject to a less violent impact. It derailed, but did not leak. The tank was emptied before the area was evacuated.
3. Consequences of the occurrence:

- A safety perimeter was set up (~ 350 metres) leading to the evacuation of dwellings, two schools, a rest home and a care home for 5 days. In total, more than 900 people had to be evacuated.

- Lines closed for 10 days (dangerous products present at the site for 5 days).

- Difficulties encountered when the contents of the tanks were transferred (instability of the wagons, difficult access due to the wagons and girders being entangled).
Annexe 3: photos de l’accident de Godinne