



CONCERTO is co-funded by the European Commission and today it includes 28 communities in 9 different projects



CONCERTO NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

The majority of our current energy supply derives largely from traditional energy sources. As our demands for energy supply increases there is a growing need for exploring and developing new concepts for our energy sustainability requirements. Not only this, but also a reduction in the levels of harmful emissions and pollutants from an increase in the use of renewable energy sources and implementation of energy efficiency measures ultimately enhances the quality of citizens' lives.

The European Commission is supporting local community projects demonstrating integrated energy concepts through the CONCERTO initiative. The CONCERTO initiative brings together around 28 local projects participating in 9 projects across Europe to demonstrate advancing energy concepts. It also adds a valuable European dimension to the projects' ongoing demonstration activities. In this respect the European Commission is helping local communities to develop closer working relations with each other on a European platform.

The CONCERTO initiative has straight forward objectives, yet very ambitious goals, which are set to be reached during the coming years. The ideal of CONCERTO is to try to solve some of the problems of our society by integrating already existing concepts and ideas to deliver better and more innovative solutions. CONCERTO actions will better prepare us to anticipate and deal with the energy challenges of the future, by compiling well documented experiences to form the basis for stricter standards and new regulations.

I would like to thank the participants for attending the 'CONCERTO Opening', the three days meeting which brought together over 100 representatives from the 28 local communities in Brussels, Belgium on 3rd to 5th July 2006. Participants gathered in Brussels to develop the CONCERTO vision statement for the work of the initiative for the years' ahead. Moreover, on the second day parallel workshops were organised to

cover issues of common interest such as dissemination, technical monitoring, and socio-economic analysis and policy recommendations. Attendees were also able to request that specific issues be discussed during parallel working sessions on the third day, allowing the communities to gain maximum benefit from the CONCERTO initiative.

The CONCERTO Opening event signified the start of the process of the CONCERTO projects working together on a European level. Participants will benefit from the process of information transfer and cross sharing of experiences. By working together all actors will be better informed and understand each others projects. The meeting also helped to start with the implementation of a realistic and effective strategy for common dissemination purposes.

The European Commission strongly supports the CONCERTO initiative with the launch of CONCERTO Plus. CONCERTO Plus adds value to the projects by developing, in particular, a common dissemination strategy by using a range of effective communication tools, such as a brochure, Website, posters, newsletter... It also contributes to the success of the initiative on a scientific, technical and policy level with further support from a coordinated approach to analysis and monitoring, in addition to facilitating networking and best practice transfer among the projects.

The aim of this newsletter is to inform about the latest developments within the context of the CONCERTO initiative, what is new within the partner projects and their observers, the communities' demonstration activities and how the integration strategy is evolving to reach clearly set goals.

I wish each participating and observer community success.

Yours faithfully,

Gonzalo Molina Igartua,
Directorate General Transport and Energy (DG TREN)
European Commission

Towards an integrated community energy policy to improve the quality of citizens' lives

FOCUS ON THE CONCERTO 'OPENING'

3rd–5th JULY 2006, Brussels, Belgium

The participants from the different CONCERTO projects and communities, as well as a strong team of experts from CONCERTO Plus, had the opportunity to meet face-to-face for the very first time at the 'CONCERTO Opening' held on 3rd – 5th July 2006 in Brussels, Belgium. The core focus of the discussions during the CONCERTO Opening was to build upon the established motivation of the actors to the spirit of the CONCERTO initiative and to bring together on a European stage all involved to facilitate a process of know how transfer among them.

SETTING UP THE CONFERENCE

The first stages of the work for CONCERTO Plus was highly concentrated on the gathering of information on the communities' activities in order to be able to compile all data necessary for the development and creation of the CONCERTO dissemination tools. This part was extremely important for the CONCERTO Plus team to build a better understanding of the communities and their demonstration actions in order to effectively develop the common dissemination material.

The logical evolution of this first phase of the project was to meet directly the different actors and stakeholders of the project to exchange information about their strategies, the difficulties faced and how they were overcome and the synergies created among the consortia of each project.

Initial face to face meetings were important steps for collecting and gathering information and also for the development of a real network for an efficient information and communication flow between all the partners. Organised in the Metropole Hotel in Brussels on 3rd – 5th July 2006, the CONCERTO Opening was a milestone to:

- thank the participants for their collaboration so far and for each of them to get to know each other to create a real network;
- define a common vision and a common strategy for CONCERTO and the 9 projects;
- refine the further collaboration between CONCERTO Plus and the different projects and their involved communities, and provide the possibility for participants to raise their respective questions with the official representatives of the European Commission on specific subjects, such as financial and legal aspects.



Discussing the CONCERTO vision

ORGANISATION OF THE OPENING

In order to meet the objectives above, the CONCERTO Opening was organised in different parts:

- The first day was the occasion to present CONCERTO and to define together a common vision of the initiative.
- The second day was dedicated to running specific workshops for the possibility to work efficiently on three important topics: dissemination, socio-economic issues and policy recommendations as well as technical monitoring.
- The third day was dedicated to allow the community representatives to meet the members of the European Commission and to discuss the topics proposed by the participants themselves.

The Opening was well appreciated by all the participants who found it interesting to meet the other partners of the initiative and to discuss all together the different topics proposed in a friendly atmosphere. The main interests perceived were to meet different stakeholders and to start creating a network, and to discuss different topics that all together will constitute the basis of the CONCERTO initiative.

ESTABLISHING THE CONCERTO VISION

Before the CONCERTO Opening initial workshops were held at each of the CONCERTO demonstration projects at which ideas for a common vision were gathered. These ideas were displayed on posters as a "vision gallery" for participants to view and to act as a base for further discussions during the afternoon on the first day of the CONCERTO Opening.

In three rounds of a "vision dialogue" the participants discussed the elements that were to be included in a common vision. They were asked to imagine a future after CONCERTO actions were completed and outline what they believed would be some of the key success factors of the initiative.

A large number of ideas were put forward for the vision of CONCERTO:

- in terms of Regulations and Directives, CONCERTO will make contributions to more ambitious energy efficiency standards on a local, national and international level and assist in unifying methodologies and benchmarking across Europe;
- CONCERTO delivers best practice and demonstration examples;
- CONCERTO is not only reserved for a selected group of people who should help to turn sustainable homes into something desired by all;
- education is important – sustainability should be integrated into every day educational and schooling programmes;
- personal involvement is of considerable importance, especially when used as an example in terms of "doing what we ask others to do";
- there should be a focus on lobbying at the national and EU level, new legislation has to take into account the real needs at the ground level (bottom up approach), and national regulations must be adapted to actual needs, and
- the level of dissemination and collaboration is special in CONCERTO and it demonstrates the co-operation between local actors and stakeholders.

Working together



'CONCERTO OPENING' WORKSHOP

On the second day a range of different workshops, tailored to the specific needs of each group, were the focus of the days' activities. Three separate workshops were run in parallel session on Dissemination, Technical Monitoring as well as Socio Economic Issues and Policy Recommendations outlook. Attendees fostered strong mutual working relationships to ensure the collaborative spirit among all involved in developing the sustainable energy strategy for the twenty first century and beyond.

DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

The aim of the Dissemination Workshop on the second day was to set up a CONCERTO wide dissemination network and communication strategy. Dissemination experts from the different projects participated in lively discussions about the application of the CONCERTO corporate identity, dissemination tools and the establishment of a communication and dissemination network. This workshop offered the unique chance to agree on the "rules" for the future of working together. Interesting ideas on how best to use the dissemination tools developed within CONCERTO Plus with the goal to make CONCERTO known all across Europe within the next five years were also central features of the discussions.

Dissemination Workshop



Technical Monitoring Workshop

TECHNICAL MONITORING WORKSHOP

The Technical Monitoring Workshop focused on CONCERTO wide methodological standards for technical indicators of performance. Transparency in the methodological standards applied was stressed to be an essential element to ensure trust, confidence and consistency of indicators. It was suggested that CONCERTO Plus could highlight the best practice examples for the other projects to learn from the CONCERTO experience and also to help connect CONCERTO partners to a network of experts for troubleshooting issues. Accessibility to the data was also considered an important issue in the context of the discussions. It was highlighted that for the demonstration building monitoring data would be easy to obtain, but for other situations statistical analysis could be carried out if data is not available. Particularly the access to import energy data might be very difficult in some cases. The next steps for the technical monitoring aspects were identified as being the need to analyse the energy balance sheets and discuss how to implement the required support framework in the best way. To this regard an agreement giving the framework for the technical impact assessment will be proposed to the partners.

SOCIO ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLOOK WORKSHOP

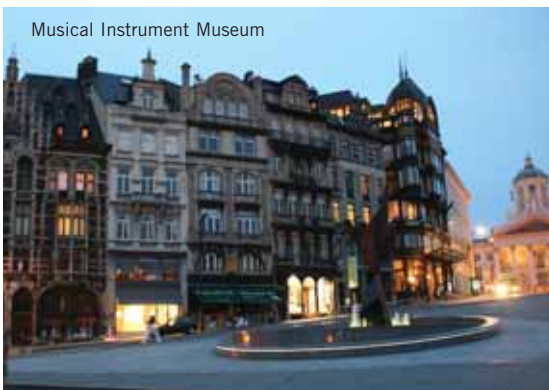
The Socio Economic Issues and Policy Recommendations outlook workshop set out to discuss the CONCERTO methodological approach for non-technical indicators. The workshop was subdivided into two parallel sessions, focused on non technical indicators and on a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Socio-economic frameworks vary from one project to another and the research is in different stages of development. Following the presentation of the socio-economic approach of three projects, the discussions tried to address similarities and differences between projects and approaches. The results of the discussion pointed out the need to share methodologies. Only a few communities have already a detailed definition of socio-economic assessment and indicator-categories (social, demographic, economic, environmental, regional development, etc...). In the case of rehabilitation of the building stock, however, there appear to be striking similarities in most projects. Thus a large number of projects focuses on tenants as major target groups and addresses their change in behaviour. It emerged that individual metering and feed-back systems, the learning process of tenants and the development of accompanying measures such as training and information are of great importance for a large number of cases.

The second session concentrated on discussing what kind of risk is associated with the planning and implementation of the demo activities by means of a SWOT analysis. The discussion revealed that strengths out-weigh threats and weaknesses. The fact that energy is at the heart of much debate and the rising of energy prices were considered to be among the greatest incentives and hence strengths for seeking sustainable paths. On the other side, the absence of key actors such as energy companies and taxation issues were considered to be among the troubling weaknesses. Interestingly some of the issues raised in the SWOT analysis were considered to be both strengths and weaknesses at the same time.

Socio Economic Issues and Policy Recommendations Outlook Workshop



Musical Instrument Museum



WORKING DINNER

On Tuesday evening, the working dinner was organised at the Museum of Musical Instruments in the heart of Brussels. The roof terrace provided the perfect note of harmony to the entire event. While enjoying the good food and views of Brussels the CONCERTO partners continued working by exchanging their views on the initiative. Yet it also allowed all to relax and enjoy some personal moments at the end of two hard days of work.

Working Dinner in the Musical Instruments Museum



WHAT IS THE CONCERTO INITIATIVE?

The European wide CONCERTO initiative, launched by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Research Programme, addresses the challenges of creating a more sustainable future for Europe's energy needs. Today, within the CONCERTO initiative, there are a total of 28 communities in 9 projects working together to deliver the highest possible level of self-supply of energy. This objective is achieved through a combination of unique foresight and practical thinking.



The focus is primarily on demonstrating the environmental, economic and social benefits of integrating renewable energy sources together with energy efficiency techniques evidenced in the 28 demonstration communities. The CONCERTO initiative provides an exciting platform for the exchange of ideas. Communities and partners benefit from the shared expertise of Europe's most advanced communities active in the field.

Each CONCERTO community addresses its own specific solutions and comes together to realise the CONCERTO core spirit for Europe. CONCERTO communities gain visibility as 'role models' and forerunners for advancing Europe's sustainable innovative energy policy concepts while contributing to the European Union's global goals to fight climate change and improve the security of energy supplies.

On a practical level the initiative focuses on the integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in eco-buildings by integrating on-site renewable energy sources with energy efficient building design and management. Other actions involve the use of poly-generation and combined heat and power (CHP). The application of processes such as intelligent energy management strategies are included in the demonstration actions throughout.



9 PROJECTS, 12 COUNTRIES, 28 COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER

Throughout Europe, 28 participating communities involved in 9 projects combine their strengths and facilitate know-how transfer on a European stage through the framework of the CONCERTO initiative. The spirit of CONCERTO is being realised only with motivation and dedication of the communities for helping to deliver a higher quality for citizens' lives. Each stakeholder community demonstrates broadly similar objectives, but sometimes uniquely detailed different actions, which contribute to CONCERTO global aims.

This section provides a brief glimpse of the nine CONCERTO projects and their demonstration communities. Further information on the projects, demonstration actions and contact details can be accessed on the CONCERTO Website at www.concertoplus.eu or from the CONCERTO brochure.



RENAISSANCE

CONCERTO PLUS

CONCERTO Plus adds value to the CONCERTO projects, supports the European Commission and contributes to the success of the CONCERTO initiative on scientific, technical and political level. It includes coordinated analysis, monitoring and dissemination of the results from all CONCERTO projects, including the strengthening of networking between the CONCERTO projects and facilitating the transfer of best practices to new communities across the European Union.

All projects participating in the CONCERTO initiative gain the essential support of a strong and common brand identity with a European dimension. CONCERTO Plus creates a facilitating framework for strengthening the mutual relationships between all involved in the CONCERTO initiative. CONCERTO Plus maximises the impact of the CONCERTO initiative at the EU level by using effective communication and dissemination tools. CONCERTO Plus develops models of the energy systems in each of the CONCERTO communities. On a European level CONCERTO Plus actions will add value to the European Commission by analysing the policies and measures being adopted by the CONCERTO communities as CONCERTO Plus closely assesses their impact. Key policy recommendations will emerge for use by other local communities across the European Union. This helps CONCERTO actions to deliver higher results than foreseen by the normal standards, which can enhance European policy objectives.

CONCERTO Plus therefore analyses and assesses the relevant institutional, political, cultural, organisational, financial and legal contexts, as well as the processes of implementation adopted by each of the CONCERTO communities, in order to identify factors affecting the outcome of the projects. Special sessions will be arranged and will concentrate on the success factors and how to overcome barriers to success, considering the local and regional contexts, as well as the key roles of the stakeholders involved.

CONCERTO Plus Dissemination

CONCERTO Plus delivers a truly pan-European CONCERTO communication structure for the whole CONCERTO initiative. CONCERTO Plus brings together dissemination activities performed at local and national level with those at the European level. It involves a series of publications as well as presentations at conferences. The impacts achieved by the CONCERTO projects and the resulting policy recommendations are condensed with the help of CONCERTO Plus. The underlining spirit of the dissemination actions is to add value to the results from CONCERTO projects by consolidating the achievements and using them as a basis for presenting clear messages to potential follower communities. The communication framework will raise awareness of the energy performance of local communities amongst decision makers at all levels in the EU, by enhancing the visibility of the CONCERTO projects as showcases of sustainable energy communities. Moreover the dissemination work aims to strengthen team working within the CONCERTO initiative by organising events at which the CONCERTO communities and their observer communities can work together and share their experiences. Importantly all tools employed help decrease the barriers for newcomer communities.

Visit the CONCERTO website www.concertoplus.eu for further information and to download CONCERTO publications like the CONCERTO brochure, poster and Power Point slides developed for the CONCERTO initiative.



CONCERTO Brochure

The CONCERTO 'Opening' marked the official launch of the CONCERTO brochure. Packed with exciting information on how each project and community reaches the goal of integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures. The brochure is well illustrated, light and easy to read.

The brochure launch gives a chance for readers to see the faces of the demonstration activities of the CONCERTO projects and communities in one single publication, which is technical yet, but of practical benefit for all involved and interested. Here you see the front cover and some of the inside pages of the brochure. Please contact us through the CONCERTO website for a copy of the brochure. Currently available in English, the brochure will be translated into other European languages and available electronically on the CONCERTO Website.

CONCERTO Website

The 'Opening' event signified the launch of the brand new CONCERTO Website. The Website provides an ideal information service and focal contact point for anyone interested in CONCERTO and its actions. The CONCERTO Website, developed by CONCERTO Plus, includes sections of general public interest right across the board to detailed technical sections for CONCERTO partners and experts. A lively interactive tool providing a wealth of exciting information on CONCERTO, its spirit, its partners and its demonstration activities, visit the brand new Website and find out more about CONCERTO: www.concertoplus.eu

However the Website is still in the early days of development. We would therefore really appreciate your feedback on how easy the site is to use, the value of the information provided and anything else you would like to see included. To make suggestions please contact us through the details displayed in the 'Contact us' section.



CONCERTO Powerpoint slides

CONCERTO Plus has been busy to finalise the CONCERTO Power Point slides, with the assistance of all the partners of the project. CONCERTO Plus Power Point slides can now be obtained from the CONCERTO Website. The Power Point slides are a very useful mean of obtaining summarised overview information on the whole initiative. They are available for download and use by all interested in demonstrating the framework of the CONCERTO initiative. The CONCERTO Power Point slides will be updated annually and will reflect the factual and evolutionary developments that take place throughout the CONCERTO life.

CONCERTO Stand

CONCERTO Plus dissemination has to be highly visible and to help achieve this aim a stand was specifically designed to support the presence of CONCERTO at events, fairs and conferences. The mobile stand is made of a large metallic structure of more than 5.5m² covered by a blue fabric. Two powerful lamps are included to highlight the posters and documents pinned on the stand. The mobile stand is completely re-usable and adaptable. A white surface can also be fixed on the stand and used as a screen to project images from a beamer. The entire stand is very easy to carry on in all the different CONCERTO conferences thanks to its suitcase that can also be used as a table for presentations.



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

The CONCERTO Plus project started in January 2006. Over the past 6 months, the objective of CONCERTO Plus was to better understand the communities' activities and to make all the actors of CONCERTO aware of the existence and mission of CONCERTO Plus. This phase was extremely important for collecting the essential information for the elaboration of the dissemination tools, analysis and networking.

In this respect during the first months special emphasis was placed on contacting the communities and projects in order to collect all material such as pictures, project descriptions, contact details, copyright agreements etc... Consequently this resulted in a great deal of constructive and highly collaborative exchanges between CONCERTO Plus and the communities. Different visits were organised by experts from CONCERTO Plus to the communities.

With all the material and information gathered, CONCERTO Plus started to develop the Website, brochure, stand and PowerPoint Slides as detailed above, in addition to the overall dissemination plan. Moreover, one of the most interactive tasks for CONCERTO Plus was to bring all the actors of CONCERTO (communities, projects, politicians, scientists etc...) to work efficiently together by creating a network. For this reason it was important to organise a large meeting for all the participants which was provided at the CONCERTO Opening event last July.

The brochure was specially scheduled to be produced for the CONCERTO Opening in order to provide everybody with an identity card for each of the projects (contact details of the partners, presentation of the communities and a wealth of other information on the entire activities and the overall initiative). The Website was also launched for the event as an interactive tool to establish a steady information flow between all the partners: the Website, as well as the database to ease the interaction via the discussion forum, the exchange of documents and helpdesk.

The latest tool produced by CONCERTO Plus is the newsletter that constitutes an important step in the strategy to build closer relationships and networks. It is important to communicate efficiently between all the partners using all the possible tools. The newsletter is dedicated to be an interactive tool highlighting the key messages and key evolutions of CONCERTO projects and partners. The bi-annual newsletter will be another connection between all involved and those of whom would like and need to be involved.

WHAT IS COMING NEXT?

The objectives for the coming 6 months are to use the communication modes developed to-date and to build further tools useful for the CONCERTO partners. The brochure will be translated into 4 additional languages (French, German, Spanish and Italian) and will be available on the Website for electronic download and printing.

Currently CONCERTO Plus is creating a DVD which is scheduled to be available in December 2006. It will present the CONCERTO activities, promote the work of CONCERTO and highlight and support the evolution of the projects. The first CONCERTO DVD will be used as a basis to support the presence of CONCERTO at fairs, conferences and events. It will include movies (e.g. the movie realised during the CONCERTO Opening), images (e.g. pictures of each community) and documents from CONCERTO Plus and from all the actors involved in the project. Through a selection of different menus, the DVD will give the users the possibility to use only the material they need for their own communication.

The second issue of the newsletter is foreseen for December 2006. It will be used to continue to inform and exchange between all the stakeholders, and to focus on the different achievements made by the CONCERTO team. The newsletter will mainly consist of the information received from all the partners and collected by contacting them directly, by screening their brochures and websites, and directly sent by the CONCERTO communities. It is very important that the newsletter is not directed from CONCERTO Plus to the communities, but from the communities to the other communities.

In the meantime and in response to the needs as requested by a number of participants during the CONCERTO Opening, a monthly email will be sent out. The objective of this monthly email is to briefly present information on the CONCERTO initiative, on the projects, on the communities and on the energy world in general. This will enhance the communication between the partners by maintaining a continuous flow of information. In fact, the newsletter and the monthly email will be developed with the information received from the communities.

The Website and the database will be regularly updated with the information received from all the CONCERTO partners. The objective of these two tools during the coming 6 months is to make them as interactive as possible and in continuous link with all the partners. An important feedback concerning all the parts of these interactive tools will be requested from the CONCERTO members.

The production of new posters will be launched. It was an important point of discussion during the Opening. Eventually it was decided not to produce one poster per project as initially foreseen, but to produce thematic posters covering important topics such as research and innovation for instance. CONCERTO Plus will work with the CONCERTO partners to prepare a list of topics and themes that could be developed. This decision was taken because most of the partners of CONCERTO agreed that it was easier to produce local posters and receive from CONCERTO Plus generic posters.

In order to build a consistent corporate identity for CONCERTO, it was discussed to elaborate a series of guidelines both for the posters and for the PowerPoint slides. This will give the possibility at the same time to be flexible at the local level and create local posters and PowerPoint slides, and on the other hand it gives a clear and immediate recognition of the CONCERTO initiative. CONCERTO Plus will work on some general ideas for this two tools and propose them to the communities and partners to check the feasibility and worthiness of them. The exchange and collaboration will be done through the existing tools (Website and database) and direct contacts.

Last, it is important to stress that the coming steps are reliant on the desires and requests of the different stakeholders. The work realised so far was focused on getting to know better the projects and the people. From now on, the communication between all the partners is the main point and therefore, the suggestions, and ideas will be taken into account and debated to elaborate the coming strategy and tools. We need the collaboration of all CONCERTO actors to send suggestions and information: we count on you!



UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

EVENT / CONFERENCE	LOCATION	DATE
RENEXPO® International Trade Fair and Conference for Renewable Energy http://www.renexpo.de	AUGSBURG, GERMANY	28 September until 1 October 2006
IHE® WoodEnergy International Trade Fair and Conference for Wood Energy http://www.renexpo.de	AUGSBURG, GERMANY	28 September until 1 October 2006
reCONSTRUCT® International Trade Fair and Conference for Energy Efficient Reconstruction and Renovation http://www.renexpo.de	AUGSBURG, GERMANY	28 September until 1 October 2006
European Conference of Municipal Energy Managers http://www.eo.org.pl/index.php?lng=en	WARSAW, POLAND	5 October until 6 October 2006
EMART Energy European Platform for Energy Trading Conference and Exhibition http://www.emart-energy.com	BERLIN, GERMANY	25 October until 26 October 2006
SUSIC:Sustainable Cities Congress Spanish CONCERTO communities Working Days	TUDELA, SPAIN	6 November until 9 November 2006
Large Scale Integration of Wind Energy EWEA Policy Conference http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=233	BRUSSELS, BELGIUM	7 November until 8 November 2006
European Conference and Cooperation Exchange 2006 Sustainable Energy Systems for Buildings: Challenges & Chances http://www.irca.at/energy	VIENNA, AUSTRIA	15 November until 17 November 2006
EPIC 2006 AIVC Technologies & Sustainable Policies for a Radical Decrease of the Energy Consumption in Buildings, The 4th European Conference on Energy Performance & Indoor Climate in Buildings. The 27th Conference of the Air Infiltration & Ventilation Centre Conference of the IEA Programme on Energy Conservation in buildings & Community systems http://epic.entpe.org	LYON, FRANCE	20 November until 22 November 2006
EREC - 2007 European Renewable Energy Policy Conference Security of Supply, Environmental Protection, Competitiveness www.erec-renewables.org	BRUSSELS, BELGIUM	29 January until 31 January 2007
Expo 2008 Water and Sustainable Development http://www.expozaragoza2008.es/EN/index.asp	ZARAGOZA, SPAIN	14 June 2008 until 14 September 2008

Visit www.concertoplus.eu for more and detailed information on events!

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