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Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling was born in Innsbruck in 1930, the first child of the distinguished composer Reinhard Schwarz-Schilling. For 25 years Dr Schwarz-Schilling ran a successful medium-sized family enterprise making batteries and electronic equipment. In 1960 Dr Schwarz-Schilling joined the CDU (German Christian-Democrats). He was a member of the *Landtag* in Hessen from 1960 to 1976. As a member of the German Parliament (1976-2002), he served in various capacities, including Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Committee on Telecommunications. From 1982 to 1992 Dr Schwarz-Schilling was Minister for Posts and Telecommunications.

Dr Schwarz-Schilling resigned from the government in 1992 in protest at Germany's and Europe's inability to stop the fighting in the Balkans. In this capacity, he spent ten years travelling to every part of the country working with community leaders to foster dialogue and reconciliation. In addition to his duties as High Representative, Dr. Schwarz-Schilling was appointed by the European General Affairs & External Relations Council. Dr. Schwarz-Schilling has extensive experience in the business sector and is a partner in a telecommunications consulting firm. Dr Schwarz-Schilling is married to Marie-Luise Schwarz-Schilling and they have two children and four grandchildren.

*Office of the High Representative*