Manuel Sarrazin has been the German Federal Government Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans since March 2022. He also serves as President of the Southeast Europe Association, Vice President of the European Movement Germany, and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation. He began his political career on the Executive Committee of Alliance 90/the Greens' Harburg section in 1999-2004. From 2004-2008 he was Member of the Hamburg State Parliament and from 2008-2021, he was a Member of the German Bundestag. He served on the Bundestag's Committee for European Affairs (2008-2021), the Committee for Foreign Affairs (2017-2021), as Spokesperson and Ombudsperson for European Policy for the parliamentary group of the Greens (2009-2017), and as the Eastern European Policy spokesperson (2017-2019). He studied history, Eastern European studies and law at the Universities of Bremen and Hamburg.