

PODCAST on civil law in robotics

Voice 1: Sarah

Voice 2: Brian

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VOICE 1

You're listening to the European Parliamentary Research Service podcast on civil law rules on robotics.

VOICE 2 (to introduce the topic)

As Europe's growing flock of robots takes on more and more tasks in our factories, hospitals, nursing homes, farms, and even in our homes... the European Parliament has published a report addressing all civil law and ethical aspects of robotics, from identity issues to taxation, insurance, and civil liability. Don't miss it!

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VOICE 1

When, in the 1940s, the famous science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov presented his three laws of robotics, he would probably not have imagined that some 70 years later, they would be quoted in a report about the civil law and ethical aspects of robotics.

VOICE 2

Compared to the first prototypes, today's robots have grown in intelligence, pervasiveness and autonomy. They can walk, crawl, swim, fly, prune vines in vineyards or monitor your heartbeat...

VOICE 1

In the face of this upcoming revolution, the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee has called for the introduction of a register of smart robots that would be managed by an EU

Agency for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. So every robot would have its own sort of *electronic ID!*

VOICE 2

MEPs have also asked the Commission to draft new rules determining the liability of a robot and its owner in case they cause any damage, including the principle that liability should be proportionate to the level of instructions given to the robot and to its degree of autonomy.

VOICE 1

Rules on liability could be complemented by an insurance scheme for robot users, and a special fund to pay out compensation in case no traditional insurance policy covered the risk...

VOICE 2

MEPs are also proposing to establish ethical codes of conduct to ensure that robots are programmed to act in the best interest of humans and do not harm us!

VOICE 1

Robots are here to stay... and no one will be left untouched by this revolution... so it's important to get everyone's views on how to regulate their interactions with society. That is why the European Parliamentary Research Service is launching a public consultation on the civil-law rules for robotics.

VOICE 2

The questionnaires will be available from the Parliament's website and results are expected in the autumn of 2017. Have your say!

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