

Lawyers and science fiction: Dentons develops first robotics draft law in Russia

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St. Petersburg —Global law firm Dentons has developed the concept for the first draft law on robotics in Russia. Commissioned by Grishin Robotics, the document aims to trigger a discussion on the comprehensive legislative regulation of robotics.

The concept is based on the idea that robots can be considered as property, similar in some ways to animals. On the other hand, in light of the development of robotics, there are obvious prospects for using robots as autonomous human agents, and this is the challenge being discussed in the global scientific community. The primary objective of the concept draft law is to start a discussion on how to regulate robots in order to prepare for the spread of emerging technologies in daily life. The concept is being sent to the country's scientific and academic institutions for critique and exchange of ideas.

“The task assigned to us by Dmitry Grishin is of crucial significance. Before robots are manufactured and distributed on a mass scale, it is necessary to define the key legal ideas and start to embody them in legislation, as the law often falls behind technological progress,” said **Victor Naumov**, Managing Partner of Dentons’ St. Petersburg office and Head of the IP, IT and Telecommunications practice in Russia. “This is not our first experience of developing legislation for advanced technologies. Our team has also developed concepts on the Internet of things, 3D printing and other legal aspects of virtual worlds.”

“Philosophers and science fiction writers began thinking long ago about the nature of robots. Ideas previously known only to science fiction - for example, Isaac Asimov’s Laws of Robotics - can now be interpreted as the basis for developing legal norms in the real world,” said Dentons Of Counsel **Vladislav Arkhipov**, one of the draft law’s authors. “The concept uses the features of a legal entity to define the status of a robot and model of liability. It also sets out the creation of a registry that will classify robots by use and degree of artificial intelligence. Later on this will make it possible to define the limits of legal personality. Of course no one is planning to regulate the use of household vacuum cleaners, but even now driverless cars are provoking a huge number of unanswered questions and these will grow from year to year.”

Dmitry Grishin, founder of Grishin Robotics and co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mail.Ru Group, added, “The spread of robots creates numerous challenges: What to do if a driverless car gets into an accident? Who will be responsible for an accidental recording by a drone? And that is only the start of how robots actually permeate all areas of life. Because I am convinced that the process of adapting robots will be swift, I consider it appropriate to envision ahead of time how the human-robot relationship will be regulated by law. In order to do this, it is important to use a comprehensive approach that will help to define the general approaches in this field, to formulate possible answers to the questions that arise and to propose correct regulation for them.”

To receive a copy of the document, or to share comments and suggestions, please contact Olga Karavaeva at olga.karavaeva@dentons.com.

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