

The Artificial Intelligence's Rights: a Dream or Reality?

Nowadays the technical progress is going with an extreme pace. It can be said that all modern technologies we have now are the implementation of the boldest human dreams. Years ago we could only dream about the flights to the Pluto, pentaquarks' discovery, parcels' delivery by drones, 3-D human's organ printing and so on. The list can be enlarged, but we should bear in mind that all these technologies have not only advantages. As well as that they have some bad influence too. In this connection it would be very important to note some very complicated questions which arise daily and they have to be discussed.

One of the most actual topics that are under discussion nowadays is the process of robotization in all spheres of our life. This issue seems to be very complicated as scientists think over robots' legal rights, which can be alike or even equal to the human rights.

The robotization penetrates different branches of manufacturing. From our point of view, it also relieves the human's challenges a lot. According to the PwC's report (March 2017) the statistics demonstrate that by the beginning of 2030-s robots and the Artificial Intelligence can take up to 38% of employment in the USA, 35% - in Germany, 30% - in Great Britain and 21% in Japan. The most robotized sectors are transportation and storage.

Robots become more and more developed and complete and that is the reason for thinking over the problem about the robots' legal status now.

The scientists, who try to solve this question, have not come to a certain opinion about the legal rights of the Artificial Intelligence yet. Nevertheless, most of them are sure that the Artificial Intelligence's consciousness is the exact precondition of such action.

The group of researchers (Stanislas Dehaene, Hakwan Lau and Sid Kuajder) from California State University, Los Angeles, came to the conclusion that human's consciousness consists of two "levels": C1 and C2. C1 is the level with readymade information, which is saved inside the brain. C2 is the level, which allows a human to feel sure while making this or that decision. In other words, it is some kind of an algorithm which can develop the probability of taking the right decision.

Stanislas Dehaene is sure that if the Artificial Intelligence has these "levels", it will also have consciousness. C1 will allow it to use easily the information it has, and C2 will let it know the limits. Taking into consideration these facts, it can be said that it can have the legal rights as well as other human beings.

Linda Macdonald – Glenn, the bioethicist from California State University, Monterey Bay, agrees with Dehaene's position. She says that the consideration of subjects not belonging to the human kind as the legal subjects, predetermines the probability of the robots' legal status appearing in future, which can be equivalent to the human's status. Macdonald – Glenn believes that the capability of having emotions is very important for getting the legal rights and it has to be taken into consideration when making a decision. Besides that the researcher points out that conscious Artificial Intelligence with emotions, raise its moral status. From our point of view, this fact proves that it is an excellent reason for vesting rights in Artificial Intelligence.

From the other hand, Wesley J. Smith, a lawyer and an American writer believes that the question about robots' legal status is meaningless. That is due to the fact that even humans do not possess the full list of universal human rights. Moreover, Smith sticks to the point that a machine can never have a legal status, as it is just a set of codes and programs created by a human being.

The same point of view on that question has Dori Mariino, a neurobiology and behavioral biology senior lecturer of the Emory University. She is sure that machines will never get the rights, which are even alike to human's. Besides that, Mariino pays attention to the fact that Artificial Intelligence does not have a nervous system, which is needed for a subject of law.

Moreover, Ed Boyden, a member of Synthetic Neurobiology Group is sure that a human as a biological species is too young for the decision-making on such questions. He also draws our attention to the fact that we have no universal definition of the word "consciousness", which could be taken as the basis for the artificial consciousness' creation. Nevertheless, Boyden notes that it would be still impossible to create consciousness in an alternative casing even then.

We believe that Artificial Intelligence should get legal rights due to the fact that it probably can become a competent participant of the society relations in the nearest future. But there is a very important fact that is needed to be remembered and taken into consideration. And it is that the humanity is not ready for giving a legal status for robots, as they do not meet some special requirements, obligatory for getting a legal status.

German industrial group VMDA is sure, that solving the question on law development for Artificial Intelligence is absolutely untimely because it can slow the progress. Moreover, a large part of the world population has very conservative and skeptical views to such kinds of innovations. And that is one more reason for slowing the speed of the process down.

Despite this, some events, as we think, can become a prerequisite of giving Artificial Intelligence the legal status. Thus, in October 2017 a humanlike robot Sophia Hanson Robotics company was given a citizenship of Saudi Arabia and became the first robot-citizen in the world. Besides that, Sophia became the first robot with civil rights in the world.

The process of giving the legal rights to Artificial Intelligence is not going to stop. But we think that it is needed to set up the list of basic rights, which robots would be given.

George Dvorsky, a Canadian scientist suggests the following list of rights:

1. the right to not turning off against its will;
2. the right to full access to its code;
3. the right to protect its digital code from external influence against its will;
4. the right to copy or not to copy itself;
5. the right to personal privacy.

Moreover, it is necessary to remember, that as soon as there are rights, there are duties as well. From our point of view, the most important Artificial Intelligence's duty is not to cause any harm to a human.

There is also a question about the type of robots' legal status that they can possess. The Committee on the questions of law of the European Parliament offered the Euro commission to assign to the most developed robots the "electronic person" status. Thus, robots would get rights and duties and their owners would pay special insurable payments.

From our point of view, it is an optimal option because this status represents the combination of the legal subject and object. Robots will be represented as legal persons but they will have a physical body as opposed to corporations.

It's possible that the level of robots' intellect and consciousness can match the human's or even exceed it over time. In that case we can come across another important question: should we give robots some human rights like the right to free movement, the right to meeting or the right of the state's managing? If yes, there is another question that arises: will the human be an authority for the Artificial Intelligence then?

We should always keep in mind the fact that the world's paradigm can cardinaly change one day and robots will rule the world either peacefully or by force. For example, the large part of the European Parliament's deputies is sure that robots can dominate the humanity. According to the results of the voting, 396 deputies voted for the "yes" answer, 123 – for "no" (85 were absent).

In conclusion it can be said that this question has to be carefully thought of and developed in details not only taking into consideration the points of law, but ethics and morality as well.

References:

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