



European Commission Suggests Robots Should Have Rights, Too

You cannot make this stuff up. Euro Technocrats have concluded that robots should be assigned legal status like humans already have. AI experts are jumping all over them to squash the idea. □ TN Editor

Quick question: If a Terminator traveled back in time and accidentally spilled hot coffee on your lap, who would you sue? The Terminator or Skynet.

Tricky question, and one that European lawmakers are [currently wrestling with right now in the year 2018](#).

The issue is with a report from the European Commission, [released in early 2017](#), that suggests creating a “legal status for robots in the long run” so they could be “responsible for making good any damage they may cause”.

It’s one single line in a lengthy report, but it’s been deemed important enough for [156 artificial intelligence experts to write an open letter](#)

[denouncing the suggestion](#). According to the letter, there's a number of reasons why assigning (what the report calls) "electronic personality" to robots is a bad idea.

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To begin with, we could remove liability from the companies creating robots. Secondly, we'd have to grant robots "the right to remuneration or the right to citizenship" according to the letter, something that could potentially be in contradiction with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Wild stuff.

The open letter claims that the original European Commission report was "distorted by Science-Fiction" and "an overvaluation of the actual capabilities of even the most advanced robots".

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