The role played by robotic technologies in contemporary society has significantly increased over the last decades. The impact of technological innovation on human life and values, such as identity, health and bodily integrity, privacy, autonomy and human dignity, poses new challenges to legal notions and raises many regulatory questions. Understanding whether a new regulatory ground is needed for the development and launch of emerging technologies or whether, on the contrary, problems posed by robotic technologies can be handled in the framework of existing rules is the main goal of the RoboLaw European project "Regulating Emerging Robotic Technologies in Europe: Robotics Facing Law and Ethics", funded under FP7 – Science in Society.
This volume originates from the valuable discussion carried out during the workshop that was held on 21-22 June 2012 in Pisa, in the framework of the RoboLaw project. The workshop aimed at analyzing the sources of law at stake in view of the regulation of technological development, with a special focus on soft law, transnational private regulation and technical norms and standards. Starting from a general overview of the questions raised by the use and spread of these legal devices, they are examined from a theoretical perspective and according to their current use in some "sensitive" fields of application (biotechnologies, food technologies, ICT, risk assessment). Moreover, the contributions give specific attention to transnational private regulation (TPR) and its relations with, on the one hand, merchant law and, on the other hand, international public regimes. This book represents the very first step towards the elaboration of Guidelines for the regulation of robotic technologies in Europe, which will be presented by the RoboLaw Consortium to the European Commission in 2014.

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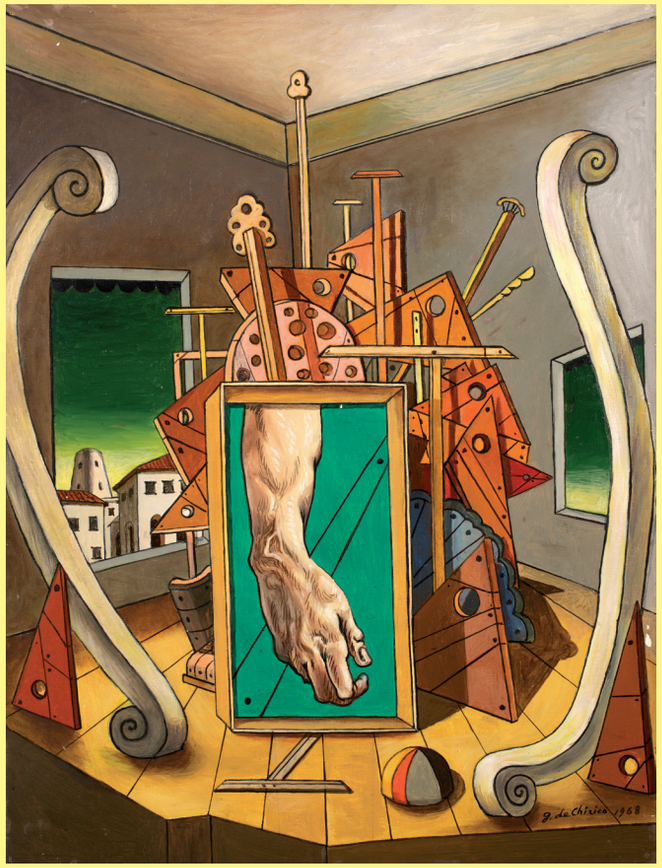

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Giorgio De Chirico, *Interno metafisico con mano di David*, oil on canvas (1968)
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